

STAY INFORMED



NewsBrief

News, Language Policy Up-dates & Analysis

SmartBrief

Current & concise information to keep up-to-date with news about world language learning



ADVOCATE !

When it is important to let our legislators know we want them to support language learning, both organizations facilitate the process.

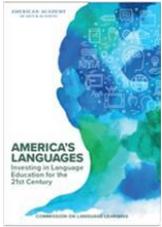
YOU can send YOUR MESSAGE quickly and efficiently.

[ACTFL Legislative Action Center](#)

[JNCL-NCLIS – Action Alerts](#)

TAKE ACTION !

* Sign up for **Newsbrief** (at bottom of JNCL-NCLIS home page) – Check both News AND Action.



In 2017 the American Academy of Arts and Sciences published [**America's Languages: Investing in Language Education for the 21st Century**](#), — the Report by the **Commission on Language Learning**, requested in 2014 by a bipartisan group of members of Congress.

This group was tasked with examining the state of the language capacity of the United States. Their Report explains seven Key Findings and presents five Recommendations “to ensure excellence in all languages as well as international education and research.” (See pp’s. viii-x of the Report.)

As a result of this publication, pro-language learning activities, including legislation (see below), are happening!! The [**America's Languages Working Group**](#) (language organizations, business, education and government leaders) formed, and currently is planning initiatives to promote language learning in the U.S. and to advance the recommendations of the Commission.



And on November 12, 2019 Congressmen David Price (D-NC) and Don Young (R-AK) announced the creation of the [**Congressional Caucus on American Languages**](#). The Caucus will work to develop greater awareness about the importance of world language learning and international education.

We (WVFLTA members and WV citizens) can be part of this movement!

We can strengthen these new initiatives by **ADDING OUR VOICE** and **spreading the word across our communities** about the benefits of language learning and about our nation's need to invest in language education for all US citizens.

In the 116th Congress (2019), there are seven bills before Congress that support the study of world languages. If we want our legislators to vote in favor of pro-language legislation, **we must tell them so.**

We must SPEAK UP (!)

! SEND an E-MAIL

!! WRITE a LETTER

**!!! MAKE a PHONE
CALL**



A Brief Review of the 7 Bills Related to World Languages in the 116th (2019) Congress

| | |
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| <p>H.R. 1094 S. 2307</p> | <p>The World Languages Advancement and Readiness Act (WLARA) To authorize the Secretary of Defense to make grants to support the study of world languages in elementary schools and secondary schools.</p> |
| <p>H.R. 3185</p> | <p>The Defense Language Improvement Act To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Defense Language Institute to award a Bachelor of Arts degree in a foreign language, and for other purposes.</p> |
| <p>H.R. 912 S. 256</p> | <p>The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Program Reauthorization Act To amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.</p> |
| <p>H.R. 1153 S. 545</p> | <p>The Reaching English Learners Act (RELA) To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to award institutions of higher education grants for teaching English learners.</p> |
| <p>H.R. 3119</p> | <p>The Biliteracy Education Seal and Teaching Act (BEST Act) To award grants to States to establish or improve, and carry out a Seal of Biliteracy program to recognize high-level student proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language.</p> |
| <p>S. 1198</p> | <p>The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Act To ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of Education.</p> |

[H.R. 4389](#)

Supporting Providers of English Language Learning (SPELL) Act

To ease bilingual teacher shortage

Are any - or all - of these legislative issues important to you?

If so, please take a moment to write a note to let your Senators and/or Representative know your thoughts. Our legislators DO value our opinion. They ARE interested in what their constituents have to say. Their aides take notes and pass on the information.

The more of us who use our VOICE, the more POWERFUL our message will be!

Sample letter to a representative:

Sample letter to a senator:

The Honorable (full name)
____(Room #)_____ House Office Building
U.S. House of
Representatives Washington
D.C. 20515 Dear
(Representative):

I am writing as a (language) teacher at (name of school) in (name of town) to ask your support for **H.R. 3119, the BEST Act.**

Having communicative ability in a second language and being familiar with another culture are invaluable tools for success in our increasingly global society. These abilities are precisely what we develop in our language classes, providing our young people with the life-long benefits of second language learning.

Awarding our students the SEAL of BILITERACY will validate their accomplishment and give them access to further educational and career opportunities. **WV students deserve this distinction.**

Please support the BEST Act. Thank you.

The Honorable (full name)
____(Room #) _____Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510
Dear (Senator):

As a public high school (language) teacher who strives to give my students the life and career enhancing ability of communication in a second language, I urge you to support **The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Act (S.1198).**

Especially for our future language teachers, an immersion experience in language and culture is indispensable, giving them the background to create more realistic, relevant and meaningful lessons.

Likewise, the linguistic skills and cultural understanding this type of experience provides will be extremely beneficial for our future businessmen, diplomats, health professionals, literally, for all citizens of the 21st (GLOBAL) century.

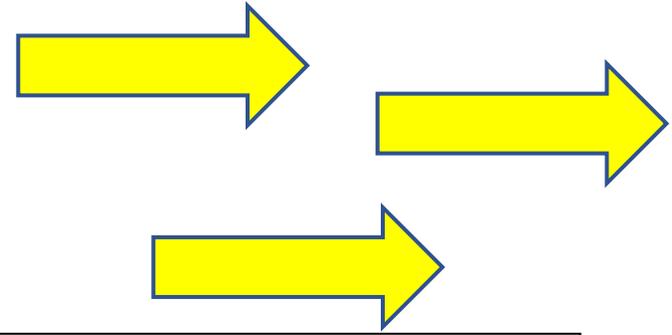
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sign your letter with your name and title, your full address, and your phone number.

SEND a note or letter today

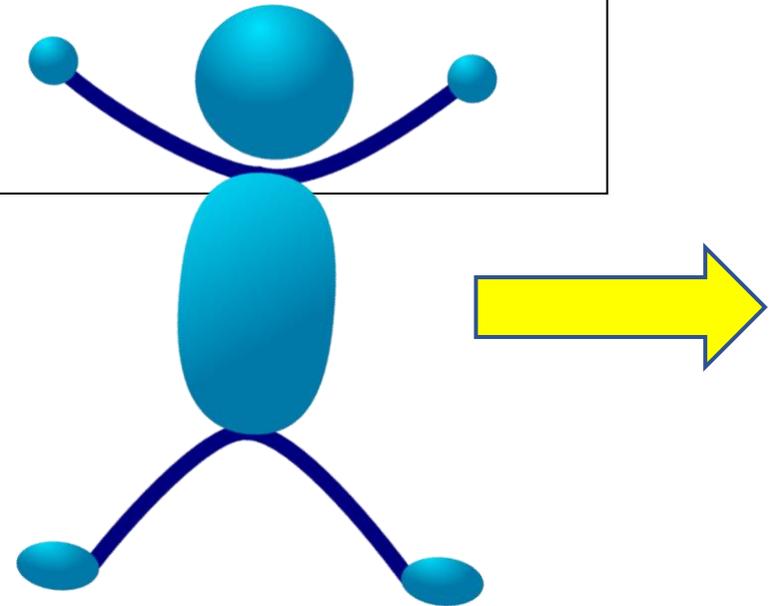
call

Follow-up with a PHONE



*An e-mail is good;
a letter is worth 20 e-mails;
a phone call is worth 20
letters.*

Advice given to Nancy Ryan by a congressional staffer.



WV Senators



Shelley Moore Capito

172 Russell Senate
Office Building
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(202) 224-6472

<https://www.capito.senate.gov/contact/contact-shelley>



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www.manchin.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-form

WV Representatives



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1**

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