

JESSICA L. GIBSON

03/20/98 11:05:33 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: Miriam H. Vogel/WHO/EOP, Suzanne Dale/WHO/EOP, Angelique Pirozzi/WHO/EOP

Subject: Congressional Mtgs./Unz

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Message Sent To:

THE CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS OPPOSES THE UNZ INITIATIVE

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus strongly opposes initiative 227 promoted by businessman Ron Unz which is slated for California's June 2, 1998 primary election ballot. The Unz (227) initiative would mandate a single, statewide approach to teaching California's 1.38 million LEP children in public schools. Entitled "English Language Education for Immigrant Children", this initiative represents a giant step backwards in the Hispanic community's continuing quest for educational equity and excellence.

- English-only instruction --required by California law from 1872 to 1967 -- has a history of failure for LEP students. By 1960, only 50% of the state's Mexican Americans aged 18-24 had completed the eighth grade. This compelled Governor Ronald Reagan to sign a bill repealing the English-only mandate, thereby permitting bilingual education in California.
- The initiative mandates a return to the failed English-only approach by requiring 1.38 million limited-English proficient (LEP) school children to be put into one classroom -- regardless of their differences in ages, cultural backgrounds and academic abilities -- to be taught English by a teacher who will be prohibited under the threat of a lawsuit from speaking to them in their own language.
- The initiative would set a dangerous precedent in which, for the first time in the United States, the initiative process would be used to determine the curriculum of public schools -- introducing politics into a job best left to professional educators and local officials.
- In addition to preventing local educators from determining the instructional strategies that are most effective for their students, the initiative would also circumvent the ability of local communities to make educational choices and decisions regarding teaching methodologies used in the classroom
- The initiative would outlaw successful programs that teach children English by requiring districts to eliminate educational programs like the Calexico School District that provide English language learners well documented successful results for the students in that district.
- The initiative subjects 1.38 million school children to an extreme and untested theory in which a single, statewide teaching methodology is mandated for all students learning English. The California PTA, School Board Association and numerous educational organizations oppose the initiative because it mandates a "one-size fits all" methodology which usurps local authority.
- Years of linguistic research have shown that it takes five to seven years to master "academic" English which allows a student to succeed in school and should be distinguished from conversational or "playground" English, which can be learned in a year or two.

Let's be clear, the purpose of bilingual education is to teach children English and to help them reach high academic standards. We view bilingualism as a resource in a global economy and many public and private schools are promoting two-way bilingual education and foreign-language instruction in the early grades. According to the National Academy of the Sciences, LEP students in bilingual programs make greater academic gains in content areas, like math, than students who received English-only instruction. Like all other education programs, bilingual education works only if it is properly implemented. The Unz (227) initiative, on the other hand, will not work and can only harm the students and taxpayers of California.

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News from Tom DeLay

*The House Majority Whip
#107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C.*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 24, 1998

CONTACT: John P. Feehery

DeLay Introduces "English for the Children" Legislation

Bill Will End Federal Bilingual Education Programs

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Sugar Land) introduced legislation today that eliminates funding for the Office of Bilingual Education at the Department of Education and ends all federal mandates on states to fund bilingual programs. DeLay's legislation is a federal companion to California's "English for the Children" referendum that will be voted on in June.

"Immigrants and their children realize the American dream faster when they learn to speak, write and understand English. The bilingual education experiment has failed to provide the necessary tools to non-English speaking children," DeLay said. "By teaching every child English, we will be giving them the tools they need to learn and succeed in America."

DeLay's legislation repeals the Bilingual Education Act; terminates the Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs and voids any consent decree signed by state, locality or local education agency with the Federal government that requires bilingual education.

California voters will decide the fate of the "English for the Children" referendum in June. All polls regarding the vote have demonstrated overwhelming support for the referendum from all segments of society, especially non-English speaking ethnic voters.

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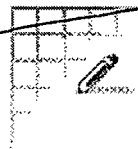
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5-7 years
to learn foreign
language

Hinojosa
- push Mambrase
rather than Hinojosa



Jessica L. Gibson
03/17/98 12:52:27 PM

Recene - short len
a) → Sep 99
b) → bus
c) → Consult
d) → 7 line lab

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To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: Miriam H. Vogel/WHO/EOP, Suzanne Dale/WHO/EOP, Angelique Pirozzi/WHO/EOP

Subject: CHC Bilingual Ed mtg

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus is now ready to have us into talk about Bilingual Ed/Unz.
Becerra and Hinojosa will jointly host the meeting for the Members. The meeting is set for
Tuesday, March 24 @ 4:30, rm TBD. Pls let me know if you or your principle will be in attendance.
Thank you.

Message Sent To:

Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP
Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP
Karen E. Skelton/WHO/EOP
Michael Cohen/OPD/EOP
Maritza Rivera/WHO/EOP

Extran
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- teach/school system to why not

impact of state board
decision

for Co-mith-Si
becomes more and

English +

some the 6th for

forced in every kid
forced

stand
teachers

- ① Separation of issues
- keep many of class
sep. for next time
- ② Act Research. address given

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