

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-

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OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title LX, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 60___ . GRANTS TO STATES FOR SEAL OF BILITERACY**
2 **PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) The people of the United States celebrate
5 cultural and linguistic diversity and seek to prepare
6 students with skills to succeed in the 21st century.

7 (2) It is fitting to commend the dedication of
8 students who have achieved proficiency in multiple
9 languages and to encourage their peers to follow in
10 their footsteps.

11 (3) The congressionally requested Commission
12 on Language Learning, in its 2017 report “America’s
13 Languages: Investing in Language Education
14 for the 21st Century”, notes the pressing national
15 need for more people of the United States who are
16 proficient in two or more languages for national se-
17 curity, economic growth, and the fulfillment of the
18 potential of all people of the United States.

1 (4) The Commission on Language Learning
2 also notes the extensive cognitive, educational, and
3 employment benefits deriving from biliteracy.

4 (5) Biliteracy in general correlates with higher
5 graduation rates, higher grade point averages, high-
6 er rates of matriculation into higher education, and
7 higher earnings for all students, regardless of back-
8 ground.

9 (6) The study of America's languages in ele-
10 mentary and secondary schools should be encouraged
11 because it contributes to a student's cognitive devel-
12 opment and to the national economy and security.

13 (7) Recognition of student achievement in lan-
14 guage proficiency will enable institutions of higher
15 education and employers to readily recognize and ac-
16 knowledge the valuable expertise of bilingual stu-
17 dents in academia and the workplace.

18 (8) States such as Utah, Arizona, Washington,
19 and New Mexico have developed innovative testing
20 methods for languages, including Native American
21 languages, where no formal proficiency test currently
22 exists.

23 (9) The use of proficiency in a government-rec-
24 ognized official Native American language as the
25 base language for a Seal of Biliteracy, with pro-

1 iciency in any additional partner language dem-
2 onstrated through tested proficiency, has been suc-
3 cessfully demonstrated in Hawaii.

4 (10) Students in every State and every school
5 should be able to benefit from a Seal of Biliteracy
6 program.

7 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms “English
9 learner”, “secondary school”, and “State” have the
10 meanings given those terms in section 8101 of the
11 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
12 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

13 (2) NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.—The term
14 “Native American languages” has the meaning given
15 the term in section 103 of the Native American Lan-
16 guages Act (25 U.S.C. 2902).

17 (3) SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM.—The term
18 “Seal of Biliteracy program” means any program
19 described in section 4(a) that is established or im-
20 proved, and carried out, with funds received under
21 this section.

22 (4) SECOND LANGUAGE.—The term “second
23 language” means any language other than English
24 (or a Native American language, pursuant to section

1 4(a)(2)), including Braille, American Sign Lan-
2 guage, or a Classical language.

3 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Education.

5 (c) GRANTS FOR STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY PRO-
6 GRAMS.—

7 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made
9 available under paragraph (6), the Secretary
10 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to
11 States to enable the States to establish or im-
12 prove, and carry out, Seal of Biliteracy pro-
13 grams to recognize student proficiency in speak-
14 ing, reading, and writing in both English and a
15 second language.

16 (B) INCLUSION OF NATIVE AMERICAN LAN-
17 GUAGES.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A),
18 each Seal of Biliteracy program shall contain
19 provisions allowing the use of Native American
20 languages, including allowing speakers of any
21 Native American language recognized as official
22 by any American government, including any
23 Tribal government, to use equivalent proficiency
24 in speaking, reading, and writing in the Native

1 American language in lieu of proficiency in
2 speaking, reading, and writing in English.

3 (C) DURATION.—A grant awarded under
4 this section shall be for a period of 2 years, and
5 may be renewed at the discretion of the Sec-
6 retary.

7 (D) RENEWAL.—At the end of a grant
8 term, a State that receives a grant under this
9 section may reapply for a grant under this sec-
10 tion.

11 (E) LIMITATIONS.—A State shall not re-
12 ceive more than 1 grant under this section at
13 any time.

14 (F) RETURN OF UNSPENT GRANT
15 FUNDS.—Each State that receives a grant
16 under this section shall return any unspent
17 grant funds not later than 6 months after the
18 date on which the term for the grant ends.

19 (2) GRANT APPLICATION.—A State that desires
20 a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
21 tion to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
22 and containing such information and assurances as
23 the Secretary may require, including—

24 (A) a description of the criteria a student
25 must meet to demonstrate the proficiency in

1 speaking, reading, and writing in both lan-
2 guages necessary for the State Seal of
3 Biliteracy program;

4 (B) a detailed description of the State's
5 plan—

6 (i) to ensure that English learners
7 and former English learners are included
8 in the State Seal of Biliteracy program;

9 (ii) to ensure that—

10 (I) all languages, including Na-
11 tive American languages, can be test-
12 ed for the State Seal of Biliteracy
13 program; and

14 (II) Native American language
15 speakers and learners are included in
16 the State Seal of Biliteracy program,
17 including students at tribally con-
18 trolled schools and at schools funded
19 by the Bureau of Indian Education;
20 and

21 (iii) to reach students, including eligi-
22 ble students described in paragraph (3)(B)
23 and English learners, their parents, and
24 schools with information regarding the
25 State Seal of Biliteracy program;

1 (C) an assurance that a student who meets
2 the requirements under subparagraph (A) and
3 paragraph (3) receives—

4 (i) a permanent seal or other marker
5 on the student's secondary school diploma
6 or its equivalent; and

7 (ii) documentation of proficiency on
8 the student's official academic transcript;
9 and

10 (D) an assurance that a student is not
11 charged a fee for providing information under
12 paragraph (3)(A).

13 (3) STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN A SEAL OF
14 BILITERACY PROGRAM.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—To participate in a Seal
16 of Biliteracy program, a student shall provide
17 information to the State that serves the student
18 at such time, in such manner, and including
19 such information and assurances as the State
20 may require, including an assurance that the
21 student has met the criteria established by the
22 State under paragraph (2)(A).

23 (B) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPA-
24 TION.—A student who gained proficiency in a
25 second language outside of school may apply

1 under subparagraph (A) to participate in a Seal
2 of Biliteracy program.

3 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds made avail-
4 able under this section shall be used for—

5 (A) the administrative costs of establishing
6 or improving, and carrying out, a Seal of
7 Biliteracy program that meets the requirements
8 of paragraph (2); and

9 (B) public outreach and education about
10 the Seal of Biliteracy program.

11 (5) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
12 receiving a grant under this section, a State shall
13 issue a report to the Secretary describing the imple-
14 mentation of the Seal of Biliteracy program for
15 which the State received the grant.

16 (6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
17 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
19 2022 through 2026.

