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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LANGEVIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

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.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reaching English  
5 Learners Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TEACHING ENGLISH LEARNERS GRANT.**

2 Part B of title II of the Higher Education Act of  
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.) is amended by adding at  
4 the end the following:

5 **“Subpart 6—Teaching English Learners Grant**

6 **“SEC. 259. TEACHING ENGLISH LEARNERS GRANT.**

7 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary  
8 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible part-  
9 nerships to improve the preparation of teacher candidates  
10 to ensure that such teacher candidates possess the knowl-  
11 edge and skills necessary to effectively instruct English  
12 learners.

13 “(b) DURATION OF GRANTS.—A grant under this  
14 section shall be awarded for a period of not more than  
15 5 years.

16 “(c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under this  
17 section, the Secretary shall give preference to eligible part-  
18 nerships that recruit and enroll teacher candidates who  
19 are from underrepresented populations or former English  
20 learners.

21 “(d) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An eligible partnership  
22 that receives a grant under this section shall provide not  
23 less than 50 percent of the cost of the activities carried  
24 out with such grant from non-Federal sources, which may  
25 be provided in cash or in kind.

1           “(e) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible partnership that  
2 receives a grant under this section shall use the grant to—

3                   “(1) develop, or strengthen, an undergraduate,  
4 postbaccalaureate, or master’s teacher preparation  
5 program that enables the graduate to meet the  
6 State’s licensure or certification requirements to  
7 teach English learners and incorporates evidence-  
8 based strategies for teaching English learners (in-  
9 cluding bilingual, immersion, and dual-language edu-  
10 cation) into the education curriculum and academic  
11 content;

12                   “(2) provide teacher candidates participating in  
13 a program under paragraph (1) with skills related  
14 to—

15                           “(A) helping English learners—

16                                   “(i) achieve at high levels in early  
17 childhood education programs, and elemen-  
18 tary schools and secondary schools so such  
19 English learners can meet the challenging  
20 State academic standards that—

21   “(I) have been adopted under  
22 section 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary  
23 and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
24 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1)) by the State

1 of the school attended or to be at-  
2 tended by the English learners; and

3 “(II) apply to all public school  
4 students in the State; and

5 “(ii) attain English proficiency;

6 “(B) appropriately identifying and meeting  
7 the specific learning needs of children with dis-  
8 abilities who are English learners;

9 “(C) recognizing and addressing the social  
10 and emotional needs of English learners; and

11 “(D) promoting parental, family, and com-  
12 munity engagement in educational programs  
13 that serve English learners; and

14 “(3) provide high-quality preservice clinical ex-  
15 perience that meets the requirements of section  
16 202(d)(2) for teacher candidates participating in the  
17 program that includes, to the extent practicable—

18 “(A) clinical learning in classrooms that  
19 serve English learners; and

20 “(B) mentoring by a teacher certified to  
21 teach English learners.

22 “(f) APPLICATION.—An eligible partnership seeking  
23 a grant under this section shall submit an application to  
24 the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-

1 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

2 Such application shall include—

3           “(1) a self-assessment by the eligible partner-  
4           ship of the existing teacher preparation program at  
5           the institution of higher education, and the needs re-  
6           lated to preparing teacher candidates to instruct  
7           English learners in the manner described in sub-  
8           section (e)(2);

9           “(2) a self-assessment by the eligible partner-  
10          ship of the personnel needs for teachers who instruct  
11          English learners at local, early childhood education  
12          programs, and elementary schools and secondary  
13          schools;

14          “(3) a description of the intended uses of such  
15          grant; and

16          “(4) a description of the plan to carry out the  
17          evaluation under subsection (g)(1).

18          “(g) EVALUATIONS.—

19                 “(1) REPORT FROM ELIGIBLE PARTNER-  
20                 SHIPS.—An eligible partnership receiving a grant  
21                 under this section shall submit to the Secretary the  
22                 results of an evaluation conducted by the partner-  
23                 ship at the end of the grant period to determine—

1           “(A) the effectiveness of teachers who com-  
2           pleted a program under subsection (e)(1) with  
3           respect to instruction of English learners;

4           “(B) the systemic impact of the activities  
5           carried out by such grant on how such partner-  
6           ship prepares teachers to provide instruction in  
7           early childhood education programs, and ele-  
8           mentary schools and secondary schools; and

9           “(C) the percentage of teacher candidates  
10          who meet the State certification and licensure  
11          requirements for teaching English learners.

12          “(2) REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY.—Not  
13          later than 180 days after the last day of the grant  
14          period under this section, the Secretary shall make  
15          available to the authorizing committees and the pub-  
16          lic—

17                 “(A) the findings of the evaluations sub-  
18                 mitted under paragraph (1); and

19                 “(B) information on best practices related  
20                 to effective instruction of English learners.

21          “(h) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An eligible  
22          partnership receiving a grant under this section may use  
23          the grant only to supplement funds made available from  
24          non-Federal sources to carry out the activities supported

1 by such grant, and in no case to supplant such funds from  
2 non-Federal sources.

3 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.—The term  
5 ‘child with a disability’ has the meaning given the  
6 term in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabil-  
7 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

8 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-  
9 CATION.—The term ‘eligible institution of higher  
10 education’ means an institution of higher education  
11 that has a program of study that leads to an under-  
12 graduate degree, a master’s degree, or completion of  
13 a postbaccalaureate program required for teacher  
14 certification or licensure, including any requirements  
15 for certification obtained through alternative routes  
16 to certification.

17 “(3) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘eligi-  
18 ble partnership’ means an eligible institution of  
19 higher education in partnership with a high-need  
20 local educational agency or a high-need early child-  
21 hood education program.

22 “(4) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term ‘English  
23 learner’ has the meaning given the term in section  
24 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
25 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).”.