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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 17, 2005

MEMORANDUM

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TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Larry O. Sather

SUBJECT: Legislation designating English as the official language of the Commonwealth

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would designate English as the official language of this Commonwealth.

As we all know, the United States is a nation which shares many cultures. The citizens of this great land, despite differences, have lived harmoniously together sharing the common goal of a unified nation. One reason this nation has flourished is because of the use of English as a common language. The English language has created a strong bond and has contributed substantially to national unity and societal cohesiveness.

The purpose of my legislation is to preserve, protect and strengthen the unifying role of English as the official language of the Commonwealth. Under my legislation, English would be deemed the official language for official acts of government of the Commonwealth and its municipalities. Under the legislation, there are several instances in which official acts of government are not required to be prepared in English such as when Federal law imposes contrary provisions, in English as a second language instruction and for the promotion of international commerce and tourism.

I should note that this legislation would not infringe on the rights of any individual to choose his or her own primary language. Also, this legislation cannot be used to dictate language policies of businesses in the private sector.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Jennifer in my office at 7-3335 or via email at jhaines@pahousegop.com.

LOS/jrh

Jennifer Haines - Amendment

From: Nancy Paone
To: Jennifer Weeter; Susan Boyle
Date: 11/4/2005 10:37 AM
Subject: Amendment
CC: Jennifer Haines

The amendment for HB2089 is fine with Rep. Sather and he prefers to offer it in committee meeting.

Also, there was some discussion about amending the bill to include only state government and exclude municipal government. Some problem with Rep. Grell on this issue.

Susan, Rep. Sather said to tell you that will/should be Rep. Clymer's call.

Thanks - Nancy

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