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LRB104 15737 MST 28922 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The education of all children, the provision of specialized services for each subgroup of students attending Illinois schools, including overcoming language barriers for English learner students, and the provision of language access services for parents with limited English proficiency should be things that the State of Illinois strives to accomplish; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois statute requires the identification of English learner students, requires school districts to establish a transitional bilingual education (TBE) program when an attendance center has an enrollment of 20 or more English learners of the same language classification, and requires assessment of English learners to determine their specific programmatic needs; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois serves over 225,000 English learner students in its schools, accounting for more than 16% of all its students; and

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WHEREAS, The majority of English learners in Illinois were born in the U.S., and all English learners are entitled to a free and appropriate public education, including services for English learners to help them overcome language barriers and

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1 participate in the educational programs offered by Illinois  
2 school districts to the same degree that non-English learner  
3 students participate; and

4 WHEREAS, President Donald Trump's proposed budget for  
5 FY2026 eliminates the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title  
6 III funding, which supports educational programs for English  
7 learners' attainment of English proficiency and improvement of  
8 academic achievement; and

9 WHEREAS, Executive Order 14224 declared English to be the  
10 official language of the United States of America yet revoked  
11 Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for  
12 Persons With Limited English Proficiency, which required all  
13 federal agencies to develop plans on how they would provide  
14 language assistance services to the populations they serve;  
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge President  
18 Donald Trump to stop the actions of the administration that  
19 are impacting or eliminating educational funding, educational  
20 supports, and educational services provided to English learner  
21 students, limited English proficient parents, and the  
22 educators that serve these students; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we urge federal lawmakers to instead  
2           prioritize the maintenance and improvement of educational  
3           services for English learner students, maintain and provide  
4           for increases to ESSA Title III funding aligned with  
5           inflationary measures and other appropriate funding to support  
6           educational services for English learner students and the  
7           educators that serve them, maintain and provide for language  
8           access services for parents with limited English proficiency,  
9           and ensure the educational rights of all students guaranteed  
10          under the U.S. Constitution; and be it further

11          RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
12          delivered to the President of the United States, the U.S.  
13          Senate Majority Leader, the U.S. Senate Minority Leader, the  
14          U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. House of Representatives  
15          Minority Leader, and all members of the Illinois Congressional  
16          Delegation.