

STRENGTHEN AND UNITE COMMUNITIES WITH CIVICS EDUCATION & ENGLISH DEVELOPMENT (SUCCEED) ACT

Honoring the Contributions of Immigrant Communities

Throughout its history, America has benefitted greatly from immigrants. They have helped fuel our economy through entrepreneurship and made social and cultural contributions that enable us to better understand the rest of the world. The “Strengthen and Unite Communities through Civics Education and English Development (SUCCEED) Act” honors those contributions by providing immigrant families access to critical assistance such as English language and civics education. This legislation will help immigrant communities become a more integral part of the American fabric and maximize their social and economic contributions.

The Need for English Language Acquisition Resources

According to the latest Census figures, nearly 20% of our population, close to 55 million people, speaks a language other than English at home. More than 12% of the population, over 37 million people, is foreign born. Altogether, 8.6% of this population speaks English “less than very well.” While the English language learner population is often characterized as solely immigrant, the reality is that the native-born English language learner population nearly doubled between 2000 and 2005 and is increasing at a higher rate than the immigrant population. Between 2010 and 2030, these first and second generation immigrants are projected to account for all growth in the U.S. labor force. Better preparing this workforce will unite and strengthen our country.

What the SUCCEED Act Does:

This legislation provides community-based solutions that will accelerate integration through increasing resources for English language acquisition, civics, and basic education programs. The SUCCEED Act will not only help new residents integrate into the community, but also learn the skills to become active and contributing members to our society.

Provide technical assistance and support to state and local efforts supporting newcomers:

- Re-establishes the Office of Citizenship in USCIS as the Office of Citizenship and Immigrant Integration, which would coordinate federal policies on integration and serve as a liaison to state and local entities
- Contextualizes English literacy instruction in lessons on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, naturalization proceedings, civic participation and U.S. history and government
- Provide vital technical assistance and support to state and local communities seeking strong and productive strategies to respond to newcomers.
- Makes grants available to states to establish New American Councils that bring together business, faith, civic, philanthropic, non-profit and education stakeholders to create and implement immigrant integration programs.

To become a co-sponsor or endorse this bill, please contact Frances Marquez in Congressman Mike Honda’s office at frances.marquez@mail.house.gov or (202) 225- 2631.

Please visit <http://honda.house.gov/> under Legislation/Recent Legislation/Integration for more information.

Organization Endorsements:

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)
Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)
Asian American Justice Center, a member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice (AAJC)
Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS)
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (AFL-CIO-APALA)
Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF)
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Boat People SOS (BPSOS)
CASA de Maryland
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA)
Florida Immigration Coalition (FLIC)
Hmong National Development, Inc. (HND)
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
Immigration Legal Resource Center
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)
Laotian American National Alliance, Inc. (LANA)
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies (NAVASA)
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA)
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)
National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP)
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD)
National Council of La Raza
National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA)
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Partnership for New Americans
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
OCA
OneAmerica in Washington State
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN/CAUSA) in Oregon
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
South Asian Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC)
Voces de la Frontera in Wisconsin