

PETER T. KING

Member of Congress
Third District, New York

224 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3203
(202) 225-7896

1003 PARK BOULEVARD
MASSAPEQUA PARK, NY 11762
(516) 541-4225

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3203

COMMITTEE ON BANKING
AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS
VICE CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
OPERATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS CAUCUS
WHIP, NEW YORK STATE
REPUBLICAN DELEGATION

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Citizenship Ceremonies in Spanish? Election Ballots in Chinese?

Dear Colleague:

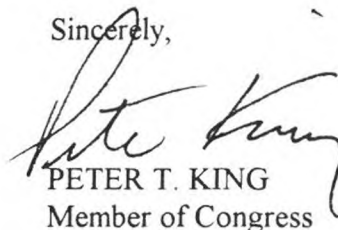
For the first 190 years of our nation's history, millions of immigrants came to our shores knowing that they were expected to learn English so that their children could break free from the shackles of the ghetto and claim their share of the American Dream. And it worked. The great American mosaic of countless immigrant cultures, traditions and beliefs bound together by the glue of a common language became the envy of the world.

Unfortunately, the purveyors of political correctness have been successful in creating and protecting big government programs that dissuade new immigrants from learning English. From mandating that election ballots appear in several languages and conducting citizenship ceremonies in languages other than English, the Federal government has expended much effort and resources on programs which have hindered immigrants from assimilating into American society.

Later this week, we will have an opportunity to rectify this situation and empower new Americans. The English Language Empowerment Act, HR 123, will put an end to linguistic welfare programs by declaring English the official language of the United States and require that naturalization ceremonies be conducted in English and repeal the mandate on bilingual ballots.

It should come as no surprise that 86% of all Americans support English as the official language of government. HR 123 is common sense legislation that deserves the support of all Members. I urge you to join with me in voting for the English Language Empowerment Act on Thursday.

Sincerely,



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress