

World Language Education Assistance Program (LEAP) Act

This bill will ensure that American children have access to world language education to improve cognitive skills, communication, and prepare them for future global opportunities.

Key Legislative Provisions

- This bill establishes a grant program through the Department of Education to create new and support current world language programs for local K-12 education programs for up to three years.
- To receive funding, recipients must meet the following criteria:
 - Show a current growth in language proficiency from K-12
 - Demonstrate an ability to continue the program after the grant period has expired
 - Include a professional development component
- These funds shall be used for:
 - Professional development for teachers to gain certification and licensure as world language or dual language teachers
 - Carrying out new and improved dual language programs
 - Evaluating the efficacy of the programs

Background

- One fifth of United States residents speak a language other than English.
- 90% of United States-based employers rely on employees who speak multiple languages.
- One third of foreign language-dependent employers report there are not enough multilingual candidates to meet their needs.
- This language crisis creates problems for businesses, government, the military, and diplomatic and intelligence services.
- Encouraging foreign language learning by enabling schools to establish such programs will work to close this language skills gap and make for a more well rounded workforce

Endorsed By



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