

HB

512

(7)

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred to Committee: February 12, 1996

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Judiciary

Date of Committee Action: 3/19/96

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

HB 512

HOUSE BILL NO. 512

ENGLISH AS THE COMMON LANGUAGE

"An Act establishing English as the common language and related to the use of English in public records and at public meetings of state agencies."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute CS HB 512 (HES) [] the same title [x] a new title

[] additional referral to _____ Committee
[] attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)
[] fiscal note(s) _____ [] fiscal note(s) _____

[] zero fiscal note(s) All Depts [] zero fiscal note(s) _____

Table with columns: SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS, DP, DNP, NR, AM. Contains handwritten signatures and checkmarks.

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE [Signature]



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE HHES
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON HB 512 DATED 3-5-96
BILL/SUBJECT

I do not support this bill, it does nothing for anyone. It is a waste of tax payers money to start making changes such as this. It sounds like this bill is invading on our rights. This bill invades on the languages already spoken here. This bill is getting against the first languages here in Alaska, there should be respect for that is here. Also the state of AK does not have follow what other states are doing, we are a state + can make decisions that is good for the people of AK not copying what happens anywhere else.

SIGNED Deed Beed
TESTIFIER

SELF
REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

SR 224 Chitochina AK 99586
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

9-LS1700\G ✓
Cook
3/11/96

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 512()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES KOTT, Barnes, Green

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing English as the official language and related to the use of
2 English in public records and at public meetings of state agencies."

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 * Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

5 (1) this state has been enriched by its diversity, and the government should
6 always take steps to promote the dignity of all the heritages that form our society;

7 (2) Native people were the first to establish a richness and variety of languages
8 in this state;

9 (3) many languages are used in this state, and language has the power to unite
10 people of differing backgrounds and heritages;

11 (4) English as the nation's single shared language is the one language that
12 crosses all ethnic, racial, cultural, and religious lines and allows diverse Americans to share
13 their various backgrounds; and

14 (5) the use of an official language as the language of public record in no way

1 infringes upon the rights of people to exercise the use of a primary language of their choice
2 for private conduct, or for speaking in public buildings or other public or private places.

3 * Sec. 2. AS 01.10 is amended by adding new sections to read:

4 ARTICLE 5. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.

5 Sec. 01.10.200. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ESTABLISHED. (a) The official
6 language of the state is English. Meetings of a state agency that are open to the public
7 shall be conducted in English. Except during a public meeting, this section does not
8 prohibit an officer or employee of a state agency from orally using a language other
9 than English in the scope of employment. Written records of a state agency, including
10 records accepted by a state agency for recording or filing, must be in English.

11 (b) A municipality may, by ordinance or resolution, elect not to be subject to
12 (a) of this section. A municipal school district or regional educational attendance area
13 may, by vote of the school board, elect not to be subject to (a) of this section.

14 Sec. 01.10.210. EXEMPTIONS. (a) AS 01.10.200 does not apply

- 15 (1) to instruction in a language other than English;
16 (2) to instruction designed to aid a student with limited English
17 proficiency;
18 (3) to bilingual education or activities if the education or activities are
19 authorized under state or federal law;
20 (4) to the international promotion of commerce, tourism, and sporting
21 events;
22 (5) when the public safety or health or an emergency requires the use
23 of a language other than English;
24 (6) to an individual providing testimony or making a statement to a
25 state agency if the individual is not an officer or employee of a state agency and if the
26 testimony or statement is translated into English and included in the records of the
27 agency.

28 (b) A person may not be denied employment by a state agency based solely
29 on that individual's lack of facility in a language other than English, except when
30 facility in another language is a bona fide job qualification required to fulfill a function
31 listed in (a) of this section.

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Sec. 01.10.220. REGULATION OF PRIVATE LANGUAGE PROHIBITED.
AS 01.10.200 may not be construed in a way that infringes on the rights of people to use languages other than English in private activities. A state agency may not restrict the use of languages other than English in private activities.

Sec. 01.10.230. PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION. ~~A~~ person may bring an action against a state agency to enforce AS 01.10.200 - 01.10.220.

Sec. 01.10.240. DEFINITION. In AS 01.10.200 - 01.10.240, "state agency" means an entity of the state or a political subdivision of the state including a board or commission, the University of Alaska, a public authority or corporation of the state, a municipality, a school district, or other governmental unit of the state or a political subdivision of the state.

9-LS1700F ✓

Cook

3/5/96

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8 the state.

FAX COVER SHEET

Date March 5, 1996

Number of Pages 2
(Including Cover Sheet)

House HESS Committee:

Cynthia Toohey 465-2137

TO: Con Bunde 465-3871

Mr./Ms. Gary Davis 465-3835

Al Vezey 465-3258

Of: Norman Rokeberg 465-2040

Tom Brice 465-2294

Fax #: Caren Robinson 465-6790

FROM: **Edwin T. Gonion**
Superintendent

Lower Yukon School District
P.O. Box 32089
Mountain Village, AK 99632
FAX #: (907) 591-2196

Special Instructions

Please Reply

Confidential

URGENT

For Your Information

MESSAGE

Enclosed: Ed Gonion letter dated March 5, 1996
to be read before your meeting at
10 am today.

**If not received correctly, please
call (907) 591-2411**



Lower Yukon School District
P. O. Box 32089
Mountain Village, Alaska 99632

Edwin T. Gonion, Superintendent

Ph: (907) 591-2411
Fax: (907) 591-2449

LOWER YUKON SCHOOL DISTRICT • P.O. BOX 32089 • MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, ALASKA 99632 • (907) 591-2411 • Edwin T. Gonion, Superintendent

ALASKAN ENJOYER HOOPER BAY NOTLEK MARSHALL MTN VILLAGE PILOT STATION PITCAS PT. RUSSIAN MISSION SCAMMON BAY SHELDON PT.

March 5, 1996

House HESS Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Committee Members

The Lower Yukon School District is opposed to HB 512, which would require that only English be spoken at state meetings.

In a region where Yupik is the primary language of many individuals and where English is taught in the schools as the language that students need to learn and know in order to participate fully in the American social, economic and governmental system, there is absolutely no valid purpose for this legislation.

It will not accomplish anything that is not already being accomplished. Rather, the bill is divisive and insulting to many, many outstanding American citizens.

Sincerely,

Edwin T. Gonion
Edwin T. Gonion
Superintendent

Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

LABOR & COMMERCE, CHAIRMAN
MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN
COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS
RESOURCES
INTERNATIONAL TRADE / TOURISM
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



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EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577
PHONE (907) 694-8944
FAX 694-8949

SESSION:
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
PHONE (907) 485-3777
FAX (907) 485-2819

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 512: English Use With Public Meetings & Documents

English is the nation's single shared language that crosses all ethnic, racial, cultural, and religious lines, and allows diverse Americans to share their various backgrounds. This bill would simply make official what is already common practice in the State of Alaska, which is the use of English in public meetings and with public documents or records. Public documents include such things as birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates, as well as records of all public meetings. The bill's intent is not to change any practices already occurring in the State; it is to simply give official recognition to what is already being done.

The bill applies only to state agencies. This includes all State Departments, boards and commissions, the University of Alaska, public corporations, municipalities, and school districts. The bill does not apply to private corporations, or to statewide or local native groups, or to federal agencies or to local groups or agencies not a part of state government. It does not apply to private citizens or private groups or activities.

Aside from making a simple statement that English is the official language of state documents, records, and meetings, it then proceeds to a list of the exceptions that are allowed. The bill is not meant to apply to language classes or curricula in schools or universities, or to bilingual programs authorized under federal law, or to tourism promotion, or if public safety or health issues are involved, or if legal testimony is needed from a non-English speaker.

The bill further provides assurances that it in no way infringes on the rights of people to use English in private activities, they can sue the state on this issue, they cannot be denied employment on the basis of lack of facility in a language other than English, and finally, it allows the state officers and employees to use a language other than English in the scope of their duties.



Representative Pete Kott



SPONSOR STATEMENT

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

February 14, 1996

SUBJECT: English as the common language (Work Order No. 9-LS1700)

TO: Representative Pete Kott
Attn: Roger

FROM: Tamara Brandt Cook
Director *TBC*

Here is the sectional summary you requested.

Section 1. Legislative findings.

Section 2. Establishes English as the common language of the state. English is required to be used for public meetings of state agencies and for agency records. Exemptions to the requirement that English be used are listed. A person may not be denied employment by a state agency based on lack of facility in a language other than English, unless facility in another language is required to fulfill one of the exempted functions. A state agency may not restrict use of other languages in private activities. A person may bring an action against a state agency to enforce requirements of this Act. "State agency" is defined.

TBC:pl
96-053.plm

"Immigrants Want And Need To Learn English. It's Time Politicians Got The Message."



*Mauro E. Muñoz, Architect
Chairman/CEO, U.S. English
Immigrant*

"**M**ultilingual ballots. U.S. citizenship ceremonies in foreign languages. Drivers' license tests in dozens of different languages. Bilingual education programs that fail to teach children English language proficiency.

"Programs invented by politicians and implemented by bureaucrats, all designed to help immigrants assimilate into American culture. In reality, they do just the opposite. They keep immigrants linguistically isolated. And they seriously limit an individual's earning potential.

"My native language is Spanish, yet I know the value of learning the language of this country. I am Chairman of U.S. ENGLISH. With over 600,000 members nationwide — we are the largest, non-partisan, non-profit organization committed to making sure government — at all levels — not waste money and energy providing services in foreign languages when money could be better spent simply teaching new immigrants English.

"We're supporting a bill in Congress which would make English the official language of government. Of course, common sense applications such as emergency services and foreign language teaching would be exempted. This bill would in no way restrict an individual's use of any language.

"Around the nation we're at the forefront of legislation on a state by state level. To date, 19 states have passed official language bills. We have a lot of work ahead of us and we can't do it without your help. It's time for you to speak up in a language politicians and bureaucrats can't ignore."

To join our grassroots movement, or to find out more, call 1-800 U S E N G L I S H (1 800-875-6454). Or write: Dept T10, 818 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006



THE LANGUAGE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY™

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



Facts & Issues

What is Official English? —

Official English is the use of English as the language of government—the language of public record, public business, the Constitution, the governing body and the courts. Official English means that the official, public business of governing is conducted in English.

Under official common language legislation, rules, decisions and laws for the record are conveyed in English. Official English laws do not legislate the use of English outside of government. They do not interfere with the teaching of other languages, nor do they affect bilingual education.

Official English has nothing to do with the language of the home, church, community center, private enterprise or with the conversation between two neighbors over the back fence. **Official English is the language of public business, not private business.** It does not pertain to religious services or texts. Names of cities, streets, monuments and buildings that are in other languages do not change under official common language laws. Restaurant menus are not affected; nor is entertainment such as music concerts, movies, plays and art exhibits.

Official English legislation makes allowances for the use of other languages as necessary. Private conversations between government employees may be spoken in other languages. Emergency services and safety information would also be available in other languages. A non-English speaking defendant may have a translator in court, but the trial would be conducted in English.

The idea of a nation having an official language is accepted worldwide. Roughly half of the world's nations have made a provision for official language. For example, Spanish is the official language of Venezuela, which means laws are written in Spanish, courts function in Spanish and government is conducted in Spanish. By adopting an official language, Venezuela declares that it is important to know Spanish in Venezuela.

Because state governments now operate in English, official English laws change very little about the way the states conduct public business. These laws, however, ensure a precise language of communication for governing. By making English our language of government, we reaffirm our belief that a common language promotes unity and serves as a bridge for understanding in our diverse society.

Stable government unifies a nation. Efficient communication among the branches of government and the people enables stability amid diversity. Official language provides a precise, unequivocal form of communication in a society where many languages are spoken.



Facts & Issues

Common Questions About Official English —

1. **Isn't English already the official language of the United States?**
No. English is our common language only by custom, not by law.
2. **After 200 years without an official language, why do we need one?**
As the United States increases its commitment to cultural diversity, a commitment to the common bond of English becomes more and more essential to maintaining clear, precise communication. Our government must take the lead in providing this impetus for the American people to join together and move forward as a nation.
3. **What will happen if we declare English as our official language?**
 - Common-sense limits will be set on government's use of multiple languages.
 - Taxpayers will be saved the cost of duplicating all government functions in multiple languages as the focus will be on teaching our common language.
4. **Does official English eliminate emergency health and safety services in other languages?**
No. In regions where significant numbers of people speak a different language, emergency health and safety services will continue to operate in that language as well.
5. **Would official English require private business to operate only in English?**
No. Official English does not require businesses, publications, and television and radio stations to be exclusively in English. The Constitution guarantees freedom of expression—including the right to express oneself in any language. While private business would not be legally required to operate in English, an alternate language would clearly communicate who the business is seeking to serve.
6. **What have other states done about official English?**
In 1812, Louisiana became the first state to recognize English as its official language. Currently 19 states recognize English as the official language and several more are considering similar legislation.
7. **Does official English imply that English is better than other languages?**
No. The official English issue is not a question of one language versus another. It is a question of one official language versus *many* languages. Official English recognizes that our government functions best in one language—and that language traditionally has been English.

8. **Does official English imply that there is something wrong with multilingualism?**
No. It is of great personal benefit for individuals to be multilingual; however, it is both inefficient and expensive for the government to be required to function in multiple languages.
9. **Does official English violate the Constitution's guarantee of freedom of speech?**
No. Many courts have upheld the constitutionality of official English laws. However, in 1990, a federal district court found that the Arizona English Language Amendment may violate a government employee's freedom of speech. The decision is being appealed. U.S.ENGLISH's "Language of Government Act" does not affect an individual's right to free speech, but limits the instances where government has to do its business in languages other than English. The act assures that all official government documents will be published in English.
10. **Is official English anti-immigrant?**
No. Official English recognizes English as the tool by which immigrants can have equal access to the educational, economic, and political opportunities available to native and other English speakers in the United States. The purpose of official English is not to obliterate individual identities, but to strengthen our common bond as American citizens. A common language allows for cultural traditions to be communicated and shared across ethnic and cultural barriers.
11. **Does "The Language of Government Act" eliminate bilingual ballots?**
No. This legislation is superseded by federal laws that require certain state and local jurisdictions to supply bilingual ballots. However, U.S.ENGLISH maintains that knowing English is important to be able to fully participate in the democratic process.
12. **Will bilingual education and foreign language instruction be affected by English being designated the language of government?**
No. Foreign language instruction will not be affected in any way. Fostering the learning of foreign languages should be encouraged as a part of any comprehensive education policy. The purpose of bilingual education, that of teaching non-English proficient (NEP) children English, will be strengthened. Official English will provide a clear objective for all bilingual education programs.



Facts & Issues

STATE OFFICIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE LAW CITATIONS as of June 1, 1995

Alabama	Ala. Const. Amend. 509	1990
Arizona	Ariz. Const. Art. XXVIII, S. 1	1988
Arkansas	Ark. Stat. Ann. S. 1-4-117	1987
California	Cal. Const. Art. III, S. 6	1986
Colorado	Colo. Const. Art. II, S. 30	1988
Florida	Fla. Const. Art. II, S. 9	1988
Georgia	1986 Ga. Laws 529	1986
Hawaii	Hawaii Const. S. 4	1978
Illinois	Ill. Rev. Stat. Ch. 1, S. 3005	1969
Indiana	Ind. Code. Ch. 10, S. 1	1984
Kentucky	Ky. Rev. Stat. S. 2.013	1984
Louisiana	La. Const. Art. 6, S. 15	1812
Mississippi	Miss. Code. Ann. S. 3-3-31	1987
Montana	Mont. Code Ann. S. 1-1-510	1995
Nebraska	Neb. Const. Art. I, S. 27	1920
New Hampshire	--- not yet codified ---	1995
North Carolina	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ch. 145, S. 11	1987
North Dakota	N.D. Cent. Code S. 54-02-13	1987
South Carolina	S.C. Code Ann. S. 1-1-(696-698)	1987
South Dakota	S.D. Codified Laws S. 1-27-(20-26)	1995
Tennessee	Tenn. Code Ann. S. 4-1-404	1984
Virginia	Va. Code S. 22.1-212.1	1950

9-LS1700F
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2/27/96

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Testimony on HB512

"An Act establishing English as the official language and related to the use of English in public records and at public meetings of state agencies."

to

Members

of

The Alaska State House HESS Committee

by

Reva Shircel

My name is Reva Shircel and I am Director of the Education Department for Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.

I am puzzled by the introduction of this bill at this time. What is the intent? What needs to be fixed by this bill?

The Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. is committed to the preservation and enhancement of the eleven Athabascan languages within our region. We consider the introduction of HB512 to be premature because we have not had a thorough legislative discussion on the preservation and enhancement of our indigenous languages.

HB512 is inconsistent with what we have tried to do through our linguistic and cultural activities. Last year - during the legislative session - we testified on behalf of SB32 and HB160 - companion bills, introduced by Senator Lincoln and Representative Nicholai, respectively, for our Native Languages to be taught in the schools. With reference to the preservation and enhancement of the Athabascan languages and culture, we receive our direction from the elders who have stated consistently that respect and adherence to traditional culture and values are an important part of the equation which allows Native people within the TCC region to be able to develop and maintain their self-esteem and community identity.

We have also supported HB167, introduced by Representative Nicholai, which supports the mainstreaming of Alaska Native Languages, Culture and History into the school because there is a need for all Alaskans, regardless of who we are and where we come from, to recognize diversity, to promote and preserve cultural heritage, and to insure access to the rich legacy of our American ancestors to all students. A comprehensive program for Alaska Native language and culture, such as is offered in HB167, will encourage those educators and members of the concerned public, both Native and non-Native, to expand curricular offerings in ways that are directly relevant to their students. It will also greatly add to the vision of America as both a diverse and integrated nation.

In closing, we respectfully recommend that HB512 not be enacted until we (all of us) effectively and in relevant terms, support the preservation of our indigenous languages.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROBINSON

TO: HB 512

- 1 Page 1, line 1, following "English":
2 Insert "and the languages of Native peoples indigenous to the state"
3 Delete "language"
4 Insert "languages"
- 5 Page 1, line 2:
6 Delete "English"
7 Insert "the common languages"
- 8 Page 1, line 12:
9 Delete "a common language as the language"
10 Insert "common languages as the languages"
- 11 Page 2, line 2:
12 Delete "LANGUAGE"
13 Insert "LANGUAGES"
- 14 Page 2, line 3:
15 Delete "LANGUAGE"
16 Insert "LANGUAGES"
- 17 Page 2, line 4:
18 Delete "language of the state is English"
19 Insert "languages of the state are English and the languages of Native peoples
20 indigenous to the state"

- 1 Page 2, line 5:
- 2 Delete "English"
- 3 Insert "one or more of the common languages"

- 4 Page 2, line 7:
- 5 Delete "English"
- 6 Insert "a common language"

- 7 Page 2, line 8:
- 8 Delete "English"
- 9 Insert "a common language"

- 10 Page 2, line 10:
- 11 Delete "English"
- 12 Insert "a common language"

- 13 Page 2, line 11:
- 14 Delete "English"

- 15 Page 2, line 12, following "proficiency":
- 16 Insert "in a common language"

- 17 Page 2, line 18:
- 18 Delete "English"
- 19 Insert "a common language"

- 20 Page 2, line 21:
- 21 Delete "English"
- 22 Insert "a common language"

- 23 Page 2, line 24:
- 24 Delete "language other than English"

1 Insert "common language"

2 Page 2, line 29:

3 Delete "English"

4 Insert "the common languages"

5 Page 2, line 30:

6 Delete "English"

7 Insert "the common languages"

8 Page 3, line 2, after ", ":

9 Insert

10 "(1) "common language" means English and the languages of Native
11 people indigenous to the state;

12 (2)"

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

1995 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 95-23

TITLE: DECLARING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AS NATIONAL LANGUAGES
AND OPPOSE ENGLISH-ONLY LEGISLATION

WHEREAS: the Federal government of the United States has a unique responsibility for Indigenous Languages and Native American Governments while, at the same time, an interest in promoting the use of the English language; and,

WHEREAS: Indigenous Languages have historically been used by Native American governments within the United States from time immemorial and have unique cultural, religious and historical importance; and,

WHEREAS: Indigenous Languages do not have foreign homelands whose governments and institutions can be expected to promote them; and,

WHEREAS: studies indicate that more than half of the indigenous languages of the United States are considered "endangered" and many have only a handful of speakers at the end of this century; and,

WHEREAS: the United States Congress is in the process of introducing legislation to declare English and the Official language of the Government of the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the delegates to the 1995 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that they actively oppose the passage of legislation to amend the United States Code to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Federation of Natives will actively support the maintenance, promotion, preservation, study, teaching, artistic use and survival of the Indigenous languages. AFN will also work to oppose legislation which prevents or hinders the maintenance, promotion, preservation, study, teaching, artistic use and survival of the Native languages of the United States of America.

SUBMITTED BY: Alaska Native Educational Council

COMMITTEE ACTION: Do Pass

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



March 14, 1996

Testimony in Opposition to HB 512

Nora Marks Dauenhauer
Principal Researcher
Language and Cultural Studies
Sealaska Heritage Foundation

I oppose HB 512, an act to make English the official language of Alaska.

The law is unnecessary and redundant. English is already the common language of communication in Alaska.

This bill seems to have its origins in the insecurity and prejudice of some segments of the white community. It seems to be coming from fears that are absolutely unfounded. Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes suggested to journalist Bill Moyers in an interview that

“When you get a proposition in California to vote the English language as the official language of the State of California, this only means one thing—that English is no longer the official language of the State of California.”

This is not the case in Alaska. There is no threat to English from any other language. In fact most Alaska Native languages are in danger of extinction.

Native languages have suffered discrimination and persecution under the “English-only” policies of the past, and many schools are still reluctant to include Alaska Native language and cultural instruction in the curriculum.

This bill is certainly an affront to the dignity and status of Alaska Native languages. The bill also looks like a new threat to the survival of Alaska Native languages.

The bill serves no practical purpose. It is symbolic and divisive. I fear that it may generate or support anti-Native language emotion and activity in the future, and that it may become the legal basis or precedent for laws or policies against Alaska Native languages in the future.

We need the support of the Alaska State Legislature to protect the rights and ethnic heritage of all citizens, and not to pass discriminatory legislation directed against Alaska Native people and their heritage.