

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1203

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that funds provided under such Act are not used to promote the teaching or use of regional or group dialects.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 1997

Mr. STUMP introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that funds provided under such Act are not used to promote the teaching or use of regional or group dialects.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Individuals who speak standard English can
6 secure jobs and function effectively in society in the
7 United States.

1 (2) Conversely, individuals who are unable to
2 communicate effectively in standard English have
3 more difficulty obtaining jobs, reading publications,
4 securing an adequate education, and otherwise func-
5 tioning effectively in society in the United States.

6 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to ensure
7 that students are taught, in public elementary and second-
8 ary schools throughout the United States, to communicate
9 in standard English and that a school makes no special
10 effort to promote special or pronounced dialectic idiosyn-
11 crasies or regional dialects.

12 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION.**

13 Part E of title 14 of the Elementary and Secondary
14 Education Act of 1965 is amended by adding at the end
15 the following:

16 **“SEC. 14515. PROHIBITION ON PROMOTING REGIONAL DIA-**
17 **LECTS.**

18 “None of the funds authorized under this Act may
19 be used, directly or indirectly, for instruction (including
20 teacher training programs), instructional materials, or any
21 other expense related to the promotion of teaching or
22 using dialects peculiar to a region or group within the pop-
23 ulation of the United States, except that—

24 “(1) a teacher may be trained and may use and
25 teach foreign languages; and

1 “(2) a teacher may communicate in his own
2 mode of speech if no special effort is made to teach
3 or encourage students to communicate in such mode
4 of speech.”.

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