

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2214

To amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to establish integrated English literacy and civics education programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. REYES, Ms. SOLIS, and Mr. GUTIERREZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to establish integrated English literacy and civics education programs, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Adults Achieving the  
5 American Dream Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) According to the National Assessment of  
2           Adult Literacy, 93 million adults in the United  
3           States have limited reading, writing, and mathe-  
4           matics skills, and 14 percent of adults in the United  
5           States have below basic proficiency in prose literacy.

6           (2) According to the United States Census,  
7           nearly 16 percent of adults over the age of 25 have  
8           not attained a high school diploma or its equivalent.

9           (3) According to the United States Census, over  
10          23 million individuals speak do not speak English  
11          well.

12          (4) An estimated 8 million aliens admitted for  
13          lawful permanent residency are eligible to apply for  
14          United States citizenship.

15          (5) Recent reports indicate that a majority of  
16          Adult English as a Second Language programs have  
17          waiting lists, and some such programs have dropped  
18          waiting lists because of the extreme demand for  
19          English as a second language services.

20          (6) Only three percent of the 93 million adults  
21          who could benefit from adult education services,  
22          English literacy, and civics education programs actu-  
23          ally participate in such services and programs.

1           (7) There is a growing and urgent need for ad-  
2           ditional adult education, English literacy, and civics  
3           education programs for adults in the United States.

4 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE ADULT EDUCATION AND**  
5 **FAMILY LITERACY ACT.**

6           (a) INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND CIVICS  
7 EDUCATION PROGRAM.—Section 203 of the Adult Edu-  
8 cation and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 9202) is  
9 amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
10 graph:

11           “(19) INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND  
12 CIVICS EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—The term ‘inte-  
13 grated English literacy and civics education pro-  
14 grams’ means programs of instruction designed to  
15 help an individual of limited English proficiency  
16 achieve competence in English through  
17 contextualized instruction on the rights and respon-  
18 sibilities of citizenship, naturalization procedures,  
19 civic participation, and United States history and  
20 government to help such an individual acquire the  
21 skills and knowledge to become an active and in-  
22 formed parent, worker, and community member.”.

23           (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
24 205 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 9204) is amended by inserting  
25 before the period at the end the following: “,

1 \$650,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, \$750,000,000 for fis-  
2 cal year 2009, \$850,000,000 for fiscal year 2010,  
3 \$950,000,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$1,100,000,000 for fis-  
4 cal year 2012, and \$1,200,000,000 for fiscal year 2013”.

5 (c) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Section 211(a) of  
6 such Act (20 U.S.C. 9211(a)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$8,000,000”  
8 and inserting “\$15,000,000”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2)—

10 (A) by striking “1.5 percent” and inserting  
11 “1.25 percent”;

12 (B) by striking “\$8,000,000” and insert-  
13 ing “\$12,000,000”; and

14 (C) by striking “and” at the end;

15 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at  
16 the end and inserting “; and”; and

17 (4) by adding at the end the following new  
18 paragraph:

19 “(4) shall reserve 12 percent of the amount  
20 that remains after reserving and making available  
21 funds under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) to carry  
22 out section 244.”.

23 (d) NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY.—Section  
24 242(c)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 9252(c)(1)) is amend-  
25 ed—

1 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

2 (A) by redesignating clauses (ii), (iii), and  
3 (iv) as clauses (iii), (iv), and (v), respectively;  
4 and

5 (B) by inserting after clause (i) the fol-  
6 lowing new clause:

7 “(ii) effective practices in the provi-  
8 sion of integrated English literacy and  
9 civics education programs;”;

10 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (G), (H),  
11 and (I) as subparagraphs (H), (I), and (J), respec-  
12 tively; and

13 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the fol-  
14 lowing new subparagraph:

15 “(G) to coordinate and share information  
16 with national organizations and associations  
17 that are interested in integrated English lit-  
18 eracy and civics education programs;”.

19 (e) NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.—Section  
20 243 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 9253) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1)—

22 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “,  
23 and integrated English literacy and civics edu-  
24 cation programs” before the semicolon at the  
25 end; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
2 “and integrated English literacy and civics edu-  
3 cation programs” before “based on scientific  
4 evidence”;

5 (2) in paragraph (2)—

6 (A) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,  
7 and integrated English literacy and civics edu-  
8 cation programs” before the semicolon at the  
9 end;

10 (B) in subparagraph (D)(ii), insert “inte-  
11 grated English literacy and civics education  
12 programs,” before “and workplace literacy pro-  
13 grams”;

14 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

15 (i) in clause (i), insert “, and inte-  
16 grated English literacy and civics edu-  
17 cation programs” before the semicolon at  
18 the end;

19 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking “and”  
20 at the end;

21 (iii) in clause (iv)—

22 (I) by inserting “and section  
23 244” after “section 231”; and

24 (II) by striking the period at the  
25 end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (iv) by adding at the end the following  
2 new clause:

3 “(v) the extent to which integrated  
4 English literacy and civics education pro-  
5 grams carried out under section 244 lead  
6 participants in such programs to increase  
7 their civic participation and, if applicable,  
8 lead such participants to become United  
9 States citizens.”.

10 (f) INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND CIVICS  
11 EDUCATION.—Chapter 4 of subtitle A of such Act (20  
12 U.S.C. 9251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
13 the following new section:

14 **“SEC. 244. INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND CIVICS**  
15 **EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From funds reserved under sec-  
17 tion 211(a)(4) for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall  
18 award grants to States, from allocations under subsection  
19 (b), for integrated English literacy and civics education  
20 programs.

21 “(b) ALLOCATIONS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2)  
23 and with respect to funds described in subsection  
24 (a), the Secretary shall allocate—

1           “(A) 65 percent to States on the basis of  
2           a State’s need for integrated English and civics  
3           education programs, as determined by calcu-  
4           lating each State’s share of a ten-year average  
5           of the data compiled by the Office of Immigra-  
6           tion Statistics of the Department of Homeland  
7           Security, for immigrants admitted for lawful  
8           permanent residence for the ten most recent  
9           years; and

10           “(B) 35 percent to the States on the basis  
11           of whether the State experienced growth, as  
12           measured by the average of the three most re-  
13           cent years for which data compiled by the Of-  
14           fice of Immigration Statistics of the Depart-  
15           ment of Homeland Security are available, for  
16           immigrants admitted for lawful permanent resi-  
17           dence.

18           “(2) MINIMUM.—No State shall receive an allo-  
19           cation under paragraph (1) in an amount that is less  
20           than \$60,000.”.

21 **SEC. 4. EXPANDING EVEN START FAMILY LITERACY PRO-**  
22 **GRAMS.**

23           Section 1002(b)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary  
24           Education Act of 1965 is amended to read as follows:



1           “(3) EVEN START.—For the purpose of car-  
2           rying out subpart 3 of part B, there are authorized  
3           to be appropriated \$500,000,000 for fiscal year  
4           2008 and such sums as may be necessary for each  
5           of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”.

6 **SEC. 5. RESEARCH IN ADULT EDUCATION.**

7           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 133(c)(A) of the Edu-  
8           cation Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.  
9           9533(c)(A)) is amended by inserting “education and” be-  
10          fore “literacy”.

11          (b) NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CEN-  
12          TER.—

13               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education  
14               shall direct the Commissioner for Education Re-  
15               search of the National Center for Education Re-  
16               search established pursuant to section 131 of the  
17               Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C.  
18               9531) to establish a national research and develop-  
19               ment center for adult education and literacy as de-  
20               scribed in section 133(c)(A) of such Act (22 U.S.C.  
21               9533(c)(A)) (as amended by subsection (a)).

22               (2) PROVISION FOR EXPANSION OF RE-  
23               SEARCH.—If, as of the date of the enactment of this  
24               Act, the Commissioner has established a center for  
25               adult literacy in accordance with section 133(c)(A)

1 of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, the  
2 Commissioner shall expand the topic of research of  
3 such center to include adult education, in accordance  
4 with the amendment made by subsection (a).

5 **SEC. 6. IMMIGRANTS TO NEW AMERICANS.**

6 The Secretary of Homeland Security shall transfer  
7 to the Secretary of Education to carry out integrated  
8 English literacy and civics education programs under sec-  
9 tion 244 of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act  
10 (as added by section 3(f) of this Act) two percent of all  
11 fees collected under section 218(a)(2) of the Immigration  
12 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188(a)(2)) and two per-  
13 cent of all civil penalties collected under section  
14 274A(e)(4) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(e)(4)).

15 **SEC. 7. CREDIT FOR EMPLOYER PROVIDED ADULT**  
16 **ENGLISH LITERACY AND BASIC EDUCATION**  
17 **PROGRAMS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of sub-  
19 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
20 1986 (relating to business related credits) is amended by  
21 adding at the end the following:

22 **“SEC. 450. EMPLOYER-PROVIDED ADULT ENGLISH LIT-**  
23 **ERACY AND BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 38, the  
25 credit determined under this section with respect to any

1 employer for the taxable year is an amount equal to 20  
2 percent of qualified education program expenses for the  
3 taxable year.

4 “(b) LIMITATION.—The amount of the credit deter-  
5 mined under subsection (a) shall not exceed an amount  
6 equal to the product of \$1,000 multiplied by the average  
7 number of full-time employees of the employer for the tax-  
8 able year.

9 “(c) QUALIFIED EDUCATION PROGRAM EX-  
10 PENSES.—For purposes of this section—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified edu-  
12 cation program expenses’ means expenses paid or in-  
13 curred by an employer to make available qualified  
14 education to employees of the employer, who are in-  
15 dividuals of limited English proficiency or have not  
16 received a secondary school diploma, or its recog-  
17 nized equivalent, or who lack sufficient mastery of  
18 basic educational skills to enable the individuals to  
19 function effectively in society.

20 “(2) QUALIFIED EDUCATION.—The term ‘quali-  
21 fied education’ means adult education and literacy  
22 activities provided—

23 “(A) by an eligible provider which for the  
24 fiscal year ending during the employer’s taxable  
25 year receives Federal funds under section 231

1 of the Adult Education and Family Literacy  
2 Act for adult education and literacy activities,  
3 or

4 “(B) in curriculum approved by an eligible  
5 agency.

6 “(3) OTHER TERMS DEFINED.—The terms ‘in-  
7 dividuals of limited English proficiency’, ‘eligible  
8 provider’, ‘adult education and literacy activities’,  
9 and ‘eligible agency’ shall have the respective mean-  
10 ings given to such terms in the Adult Education and  
11 Family Literacy Act.

12 “(d) SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this sec-  
13 tion—

14 “(1) FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT.—An employee  
15 shall be considered full-time if such employee is em-  
16 ployed at least 30 hours per week for 25 or more  
17 calendar weeks in the taxable year.

18 “(2) AGGREGATION RULE.—All persons treated  
19 as a single employer under subsection (a) or (b) or  
20 section 52, or subsection (m) or (o) of section 414,  
21 shall be treated as one person.

22 “(e) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No deduction  
23 or credit shall be allowed under any other provision of this  
24 chapter for any amount taken into account in determining  
25 the credit under this section.

1       “(f) ELECTION TO HAVE CREDIT NOT APPLY.—A  
2 taxpayer may elect (at such time and in such manner as  
3 the Secretary may by regulations prescribe) to have this  
4 section not apply for any taxable year.”.

5       (b) CREDIT TO BE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS  
6 CREDIT.—Subsection (b) of section 38 of such Code (re-  
7 lating to current year business credit) is amended by strik-  
8 ing “plus” at the end of paragraph (30), by striking the  
9 period at the end of paragraph (31) and inserting “, plus”,  
10 and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

11               “(32) the adult English literacy and basic edu-  
12 cation programs credit determined under section  
13 450.”.

14       (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
15 for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1  
16 of the such Code is amended by adding at the end the  
17 following new item:

“450. Employer-provided adult English literacy and basic education programs.”.

18       (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
19 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after  
20 December 31, 2007.

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