

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3550

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to clarify that ASL students are English learners.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2017

Mr. LARSEN of Washington 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 clarify that ASL students are English learners.

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 “Signing is Language
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY.**

7 Section 3111(c)(3)(A)(i) of the Elementary and Sec-
8 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6821(c)(3)) is
9 amended by inserting before the semicolon the following:
10 “and, which, through consultation with such Department,

1 the Secretary shall ensure includes the English learners
2 described in section 8101(20)(C)(iv)”.

3 **SEC. 3. ENGLISH LEARNER DEFINITION.**

4 Section 8101(20)(C) of the Elementary and Sec-
5 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(20)(C))
6 is amended—

7 (1) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “or” at the
8 end;

9 (2) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end
10 and inserting “or”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(iv) whose native language is Amer-
13 ican Sign Language, and who comes from
14 an environment where American Sign Lan-
15 guage is dominant; and”.

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