



Advocacy Report from JNCL-NCLIS Highlights H.R. 4065

Last month, Representative Rush Holt introduced H.R. 4065, the Foreign Language Education Partnership Program Act. This is a slightly revised version of legislation introduced in the 110th Congress with 32 bipartisan co-sponsors and endorsements by almost 80 education, international and language associations.

JNCL-NCLIS and the Coalition for International Education (CIE) worked very closely with Rep. Holt and his staff in the development of this innovative and far-reaching bill that will create articulated, sequenced foreign language programs and provide opportunities for cooperation between the K-12 schools and higher education.

During the holiday recess (assuming there is one), please contact your Representative and urge them to support/co-sponsor H.R. 4065.

SUMMARY AS OF:

11/7/2009--Introduced.

Foreign Language Education Partnership Program Act - Amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to replace the program providing incentive payments to public elementary schools for foreign language instruction with a partnership program in foreign languages that provides matching incentive payments to partnerships composed of state or local educational agencies and institutions of higher education.

Requires such partnerships to establish, improve, or expand model programs of foreign language learning from kindergarten through grade 12 that increase the number of high school graduates who attain advanced proficiency in at least one foreign language.

Requires each model program to have a dimension allowing the student to gain an understanding of the historic, geographic, cultural, economic, and other contextual factors of countries whose people speak the language studied. Conditions a partnership's continued funding for two additional five-year periods, after an initial four-year funding period, on its demonstrating its program's effectiveness based on nationally recognized standardized foreign language assessments.

Directs the Secretary to collect annually and analyze data on such programs and disseminate aggregated program data nationally, as well as information on successful programs and practices.

You can view the actual legislation by typing the bill number (H.R. 4065) at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.