

28 January 2020

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
United States House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Grijalva,

On behalf of TESOL International Association, the trusted global authority for knowledge and expertise in teaching English, I am writing to offer our strong support for the Supporting Early Language Learners' Access to Bilingual Education (SYLLABLE) Act of 2020.

As the number of English learners (ELs) continues to increase across the United States, the demand for dual-language immersion programs that serve these students has also increased. Unfortunately, many schools have been unable to meet this demand, particularly in underserved communities, lacking the sufficient funding to implement quality dual-language programs for ELs and other learners. As over half of the world's population speaks more than one language, providing grant funding for dual-language immersion education programs will allow both English learners and native English speakers to become culturally competent and economically competitive global citizens.

TESOL has a history of supporting and advocating for policies that increase participation in dual-language programs across the United States. In an effort to further recognize these bilingual and multilingual students, TESOL, in conjunction with the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, the National Association of Bilingual Education, and the National Council of State Supervisors for Languages, helped to create the [guidelines for implementing the Seal of Biliteracy](#), an award given by school systems in 38 states and the District of Columbia that recognizes a student's high level mastery of two or more languages.

Thank you for introducing such valuable legislation that will increase the number of English learners and students from underprivileged communities who participate in dual-language immersion programs. TESOL looks forward to working closely with you and all members of Congress who support English learners and dual-language immersion education to advance this bill.

Sincerely,



Christopher Powers
Executive Director