

Sample TESOL Member Resolution

Title: TESOL Resolution on Language Rights

Abstract: Several U.S. states have enacted and other states are considering legislation that could be used to deny English language learners their basic language rights. Considerable resources have also been spent on English-only policies in the United States, and some U.S. law makers have called for legislation that would establish English as the official language of the United States. Given these attacks on language rights, TESOL International Association should resolve to oppose legislative and other measures that would disenfranchise English language learners.

Resolution: Be It resolved that TESOL support measures that protect the right of all individuals to preserve and foster their linguistic and cultural origin.

Rationale: This resolution comports with TESOL International Association's mission and values. TESOL promotes programs that provide nonnative English speakers with the opportunity to learn English, and it supports English learners maintaining their native languages during and after they learn English. TESOL also encourages native English speakers to learn other languages.

Furthermore, TESOL recognizes the right of all individuals to preserve and foster their linguistic and cultural origins. These rights have been affirmed by such international organizations as UNESCO and the European Economic Community and in such international treaties as the Helsinki Accord.

The considerable resources being spent to promote and implement English-only policies in the United States could be allocated more effectively for language instruction, including English as a second language, at all educational levels and within all educational settings.

Background Information: [To support this resolution, you could supply further information on language policy in UNESCO, the European Economic Community, and the Helsinki Accord. You might also cite any pending or recent legislation promoting and/or implementing English-only policies.]