

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5483

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2019

Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. HECK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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

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

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

11 “(iv) whose native language is sign
12 language, without regard to country of ori-
13 gin or primary spoken language, including
14 any international variation of American
15 Sign Language; and”.

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