



Avelino Valencia

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

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California Legislature

RE: There Ought To Be A Law Submission

Dear Sailee,

Thank you for submitting a 'There Ought To Be A Law' proposal for the 2026 legislative session. I appreciate hearing your idea on ways we can improve state law for the betterment of Californians.

Your bill idea includes requiring schools with 60% or more of students who are English learner to have dual-language immersion programs. You cited that there is a disparity between the number of bilingual schools and English learner's students, leading to inequitable language instruction.

As you mentioned in your research, in 2016, Proposition 58 repealed the 1998 Proposition 227, which mandated English-only classroom instruction. Since then, English learners are increasingly participating in bilingual programs, with [roughly 13% of all schools](#) offering at least one language immersion program; however, there is also a drop in English learners enrollment due to overall enrollment declines. A mandate to automatically require schools with 60% or more of students who are English learners to have dual-language immersion programs relies on data that [multilingual learning leads to](#) improved educational outcomes, a boost in household outcomes, and results in greater economic opportunity.

Although we agree with the benefits of these programs, requiring all schools above a specific enrollment threshold to implement dual-language immersion programs would pose substantial fiscal and workforce challenges for districts, particularly given the ongoing shortage of qualified bilingual educators

Thank you again for contacting my office. Please don't hesitate to keep in touch about this or any other issue of concern to you.

In Service,

Avelino Valencia
Assemblymember, 68th District