

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 536

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION relative to immigrants learning the English language.

WHEREAS, the United States of America is a nation founded and built by immigrants, and we, as Americans, are proud to be "the land of the free and the home of the brave" and the free" whose prosperity and liberty beckon people looking for a better quality of life for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, the great diversity of immigrants moving to our nation requires that such immigrants become proficient in speaking the English language, or risk their economic and social viability due to poor communication skills; and

WHEREAS, if immigrants do not become proficient in English, local, state, and federal governments will become perpetual translators and the quality of public education will be greatly reduced by a confusing atmosphere of polyglotism; and

WHEREAS, both these scenarios would be incredibly expensive for government, and funds so spent are funds diverted away from other essential government projects; and

WHEREAS, communication is important in any society, but is especially important in our nation, where people of many different heritages gather together to live freely and taste the bounty of opportunity and hard work; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the General Assembly encourages immigrants to the United States of America to learn to speak the English language proficiently, so that they may fully participate in our society, both socially and economically.