



Congressman

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Serving the people of Arizona's 7th District

## Families Learning & Understanding English Together (FLUEnT) Act



### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 21.6 percent of U.S. households report speaking a language other than English at home. Often, caregivers in many recently immigrated families speak little to no English and struggle to support their children's English language development, even though they recognize English fluency is essential to success in the United States.

The Families Learning and Understanding English Together (FLUEnT) Act will expand and enhance family literacy services in high-need schools. The legislation will help non-English speaking parents of school aged children by providing grant funds to provide more opportunities to increase family literacy and family leadership. The bill focuses on both literacy and advocacy for families of English learners to improve the educational, social, and economic advancement of families. Strong family literacy activities contribute to children's success in school and family literacy programs can provide opportunities for educational success for caregivers and children. These programs can also serve as models of family involvement, showing how families can become part of an extended classroom and build on the work of the school.

Supporting the development of English literacy and leadership in English learner households has immediate short term and long term benefits including a stronger workforce and more caregiver involvement in student learning. The FLUEnT Act is key to improving English learner academic outcomes and strengthening family leadership and participation in society.



### REASONS TO SUPPORT THE BILL

5. Ensures English learners have access to high quality, research-based literacy instruction and best practices.
4. Fosters greater community involvement and parental support for English learner student success.
3. Improves academic and economic outcomes of English learner students and their families.
2. Supports families of English learners by providing leadership, advocacy, and literacy training.
1. Strengthens English learner students' literacy and English language acquisition.

#### **The FLUEnT Act is endorsed by:**

- National Center for Family Literacy
- Joint National Committee for Languages
- National Council for Languages and International Studies
- Coalition of Community-Based Heritage Languages Schools
- ACTFL
- TESOL International Association
- National Education Association
- UnidosUS
- American Federation of Teachers