

## HR 997

English Language Unity Act of 2009

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Feb 11, 2009

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. (Jul 23, 2009)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/997>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. King, Steve [R-IA-5]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** IA • **Chamber:** House

**Cosponsors** (138 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Akin, W. Todd [R-MO-2]	R · MO		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Bachmann, Michele [R-MN-6]	R · MN		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Bartlett, Roscoe G. [R-MD-6]	R · MD		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Bilbray, Brian P. [R-CA-50]	R · CA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-9]	R · FL		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7]	R · TN		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Broun, Paul C. [R-GA-10]	R · GA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Brown, Henry E., Jr. [R-SC-1]	R · SC		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]	R · TX		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Burton, Dan [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Coble, Howard [R-NC-6]	R · NC		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Culberson, John Abney [R-TX-7]	R · TX		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Dreier, David [R-CA-26]	R · CA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Duncan, John J., Jr. [R-TN-2]	R · TN		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Fallin, Mary [R-OK-5]	R · OK		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Fleming, John [R-LA-4]	R · LA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Foxx, Virginia [R-NC-5]	R · NC		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-2]	R · AZ		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Graves, Sam [R-MO-6]	R · MO		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Herger, Wally [R-CA-2]	R · CA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Hoekstra, Peter [R-MI-2]	R · MI		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Hunter, Duncan D. [R-CA-52]	R · CA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Inglis, Bob [R-SC-4]	R · SC		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Johnson, Sam [R-TX-3]	R · TX		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Kline, John [R-MN-2]	R · MN		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. LaTourette, Steven C. [R-OH-14]	R · OH		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Lucas, Frank D. [R-OK-3]	R · OK		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Luetkemeyer, Blaine [R-MO-9]	R · MO		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY-At Large]	R · WY		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. McClintonck, Tom [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. McHenry, Patrick T. [R-NC-10]	R · NC		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. McHugh, John M. [R-NY-23]	R · NY		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Miller, Gary G. [R-CA-42]	R · CA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Myrick, Sue Wilkins [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Paul, Ron [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Pitts, Joseph R. [R-PA-16]	R · PA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Platts, Todd Russell [R-PA-19]	R · PA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Feb 11, 2009

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]	R · TN		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Rogers, Harold [R-KY-5]	R · KY		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Rogers, Mike D. [R-AL-3]	R · AL		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Rogers, Mike J. [R-MI-8]	R · MI		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-46]	R · CA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Schmidt, Jean [R-OH-2]	R · OH		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Shuster, Bill [R-PA-9]	R · PA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Simpson, Michael K. [R-ID-2]	R · ID		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Smith, Adrian [R-NE-3]	R · NE		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Stearns, Cliff [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Sullivan, John [R-OK-1]	R · OK		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Tiberi, Patrick J. [R-OH-12]	R · OH		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Wamp, Zach [R-TN-3]	R · TN		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Westmoreland, Lynn A. [R-GA-3]	R · GA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Whitfield, Ed [R-KY-1]	R · KY		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Wolf, Frank R. [R-VA-10]	R · VA		Feb 11, 2009
Rep. Alexander, Rodney [R-LA-5]	R · LA		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Altmire, Jason [D-PA-4]	D · PA		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Bachus, Spencer [R-AL-6]	R · AL		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Barton, Joe [R-TX-6]	R · TX		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Boozman, John [R-AR-3]	R · AR		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Boustany, Charles W., Jr. [R-LA-7]	R · LA		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Brown-Waite, Ginny [R-FL-5]	R · FL		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Cantor, Eric [R-VA-7]	R · VA		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Davis, Geoff [R-KY-4]	R · KY		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Forbes, J. Randy [R-VA-4]	R · VA		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Gallegly, Elton [R-CA-24]	R · CA		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Hall, Ralph M. [R-TX-4]	R · TX		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Jordan, Jim [R-OH-4]	R · OH		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Linder, John [R-GA-7]	R · GA		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. McCotter, Thaddeus G. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]	R · WA		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Moran, Jerry [R-KS-1]	R · KS		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Neugebauer, Randy [R-TX-19]	R · TX		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Petri, Thomas E. [R-WI-6]	R · WI		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Price, Tom [R-GA-6]	R · GA		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Rehberg, Denny [R-MT-At Large]	R · MT		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Schock, Aaron [R-IL-18]	R · IL		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Souder, Mark E. [R-IN-3]	R · IN		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Taylor, Gene [D-MS-4]	D · MS		Feb 23, 2009
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		Feb 23, 2009

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-13]	R · FL		Feb 24, 2009
Rep. Chaffetz, Jason [R-UT-3]	R · UT		Feb 24, 2009
Rep. Gingrey, Phil [R-GA-11]	R · GA		Feb 24, 2009
Rep. Heller, Dean [R-NV-2]	R · NV		Feb 24, 2009
Rep. Manzullo, Donald A. [R-IL-16]	R · IL		Feb 24, 2009
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-15]	R · FL		Feb 24, 2009
Rep. Biggert, Judy [R-IL-13]	R · IL		Feb 25, 2009
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-3]	R · NY		Feb 25, 2009
Rep. Lee, Christopher J. [R-NY-26]	R · NY		Feb 25, 2009
Rep. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV-2]	R · WV		Mar 2, 2009
Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]	R · NE		Mar 2, 2009
Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6]	R · VA		Mar 2, 2009
Rep. Putnam, Adam H. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		Mar 2, 2009
Rep. Scalise, Steve [R-LA-1]	R · LA		Mar 2, 2009
Rep. Carney, Christopher P. [D-PA-10]	D · PA		Mar 3, 2009
Rep. Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]	R · OH		Mar 3, 2009
Rep. McIntyre, Mike [D-NC-7]	D · NC		Mar 5, 2009
Rep. Tiahrt, Todd [R-KS-4]	R · KS		Mar 9, 2009
Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22]	R · TX		Mar 10, 2009
Rep. Jenkins, Lynn [R-KS-2]	R · KS		Mar 12, 2009
Rep. McCarthy, Kevin [R-CA-22]	R · CA		Mar 12, 2009
Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-44]	R · CA		Mar 16, 2009
Rep. Harper, Gregg [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Mar 17, 2009
Rep. Campbell, John [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Mar 25, 2009
Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-5]	R · PA		Mar 25, 2009
Rep. Shadegg, John B. [R-AZ-3]	R · AZ		Mar 26, 2009
Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-40]	R · CA		Apr 21, 2009
Rep. Childers, Travis [D-MS-1]	D · MS		Apr 27, 2009
Rep. Rooney, Thomas J. [R-FL-16]	R · FL		Apr 28, 2009
Rep. Garrett, Scott [R-NJ-5]	R · NJ		May 7, 2009
Rep. Barrett, J. Gresham [R-SC-3]	R · SC		May 19, 2009
Rep. Blunt, Roy [R-MO-7]	R · MO		Jun 3, 2009
Rep. Davis, Lincoln [D-TN-4]	D · TN		Jun 8, 2009
Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4]	R · AL		Jun 9, 2009
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-3]	R · OH		Jun 15, 2009
Rep. Upton, Fred [R-MI-6]	R · MI		Jun 16, 2009
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32]	R · TX		Jul 21, 2009
Rep. Bonner, Jo [R-AL-1]	R · AL		Sep 8, 2009
Rep. Emerson, Jo Ann [R-MO-8]	R · MO		Sep 8, 2009
Rep. Mica, John L. [R-FL-7]	R · FL		Sep 8, 2009
Rep. Pence, Mike [R-IN-6]	R · IN		Sep 8, 2009
Rep. Deal, Nathan [R-GA-9]	R · GA		Sep 14, 2009

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-49]	R · CA		Sep 14, 2009
Rep. Camp, Dave [R-MI-4]	R · MI		Sep 16, 2009
Rep. Latham, Tom [R-IA-4]	R · IA		Sep 23, 2009
Rep. Bishop, Rob [R-UT-1]	R · UT		Dec 9, 2009
Rep. Murphy, Tim [R-PA-18]	R · PA		Dec 9, 2009
Rep. Miller, Jeff [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Jan 12, 2010
Rep. Peterson, Collin C. [D-MN-7]	D · MN		Jan 15, 2010
Rep. McKeon, Howard P. "Buck" [R-CA-25]	R · CA		Jan 19, 2010
Rep. Gohmert, Louie [R-TX-1]	R · TX		Jan 26, 2010
Rep. Lamborn, Doug [R-CO-5]	R · CO		Apr 29, 2010
Rep. Walden, Greg [R-OR-2]	R · OR		Apr 29, 2010
Rep. Griffith, Parker [R-AL-5]	R · AL		May 4, 2010
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Dec 7, 2010

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 23, 2009
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 23, 2009

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 S 991	Identical bill	May 6, 2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S5240-5241)

## Summary (as of Feb 11, 2009)

English Language Unity Act of 2009 - Makes English the official language of the United States.

Requires, subject to exceptions and rules of construction, that: (1) official functions of the United States be conducted in English; and (2) all naturalization ceremonies be conducted in English. Establishes a uniform English language rule for naturalization.

Makes English language requirements and workplace policies, whether in the public or private sector, presumptively consistent with the laws of the United States.

Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue for public notice and comment a proposed rule for uniform testing of English language ability of candidates for naturalization based upon the principles that: (1) all citizens should be able to read and understand generally the English language text of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the laws of the United States; and (2) any exceptions to this standard should be limited to extraordinary circumstances, such as asylum.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jul 23, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
- **Mar 23, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.
- **Feb 11, 2009:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 11, 2009:** Referred to House Education and Labor
- **Feb 11, 2009:** Referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Feb 11, 2009:** Referred to House Judiciary