



Court of Common Pleas

HAMILTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202-1217

JUDGE
NORBERT A. NADEL

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(513) 946-5060

April 29, 2008

FAX (513) 946-5064

Ohio House of Representatives
Attn.: Dave Daniels
c/o State Government Committee
77 S. High Street
11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Re: House Bill 477

Dear Representative Daniels and Members of the State Government Committee:

I am writing to you to express my support for House Bill 477 which would make English the official language for the State of Ohio and all of its agencies and political subdivisions. I have been a Judge in the Hamilton County Ohio court system for over thirty years and have served in the Common Pleas Division of Hamilton County for twenty-five years.

As the current presiding Judge for Hamilton County Ohio, I have witnessed an ongoing and disturbing trend in recent years. There has been a growing and costly demand for interpreters throughout the Hamilton County court system. This has resulted in considerable increases in public spending that the court system has never had to spend before. Hamilton County has recently hired six full time and part time interpreters at an annual cost of more than \$280,000.00. The need for interpreters in the court system is just the tip of the iceberg. There is a need for interpreters through all stages of the criminal process from arrest to final court adjudication. This problem is pervasive and permeates the court system and the criminal justice system throughout the State of Ohio.

I certainly recognize and appreciate the fact that House Bill 477 requires that due process safeguards remain intact throughout court proceedings. I also recognize that there are many other safeguards in this Bill including the requirement that one's civil rights not be violated by the terms of this Bill. Nevertheless, I believe that the Bill is an important first step toward recognition that English is the official language of the State of Ohio. As such, I believe that it will have significant long term beneficial effects in that it is likely to advance the learning of the English language by immigrants, both legal and illegal. This

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Page two.....

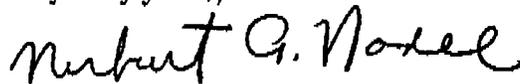
will in turn save the court system, the criminal justice system, various agencies throughout the State of Ohio and ultimately the taxpayers of Ohio significant sums of taxpayer dollars. The Bill is a significant step toward advancing the need for unity of language in all governmental functions. As matters stand at present, my significant experience in the court system leads me to believe that there is very little incentive and very little inclination to learn our English language. House Bill 477 will advance that cause.

It should also be noted that during my many years as a jurist, I have frequently made note of the fact that those who do not speak the English language and who are in need of interpreters, have decreased prospects of succeeding economically and socially once their contact with the court system is over.

Further, as matters stand now, there is a tremendous drain on the court system and criminal justice system throughout the State of Ohio. This needs to be addressed and House Bill 477 is a significant first step. It is my belief that House Bill 477 will help reverse these disturbing, time consuming and ultimately expensive trends. I consider the Bill an important part of a long range public policy initiative which the Legislature should address.

Chairman Daniels and members of the State Government Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to address you on this most important issue involving public policy throughout the state.

Very truly yours,



Norbert A. Nadel
Presiding Judge
Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas
1000 Main Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

NAN/ems