



OHIO LATINO AFFAIRS

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WHEREAS House Bill 477 is an official English bill which would require state agencies to conduct official business in English – although state agencies already do so;

and WHEREAS according to the United States Census Bureau, in the year 2000, nearly 94% of Ohioans ONLY speak English, highlighting a serious deficiency in our state's ability to compete in the global marketplace;

and WHEREAS just two years ago, the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives cited economic concerns when stopping a similar measure in the previous General Assembly;

and WHEREAS many American citizens, including the Amish, Puerto Ricans, Samoans, Alaskan Inuit, American Indians and many other Native Americans do not speak English as their first language;

and WHEREAS House Bill 477 threatens to abridge the civil and human rights of lawful residents and American citizens who do not, or have not yet, acquired English-language proficiency;



BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Ohio Latino Affairs Commission is hereby OPPOSED to House Bill 477, because it does not change the status quo; is completely unnecessary; sends the wrong message to businesses, foreign investment, and those learning a foreign language; and because provisions like it have already been demonstrated to unlawfully deny rights and services by those who misinterpret its purpose to those who rightfully should be served.

May 16, 2008.