

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2—SENATORS RAGGIO, AMODEI, BEERS, CARE, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, HARDY, HECK, HORSFORD, LEE, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NOLAN, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, TIFFANY, TITUS, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

FEBRUARY 8, 2005

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Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Declares 2005 as “The Year of Languages.” (BDR R-1064)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Declaring 2005 to be “The Year of Languages.”

1 WHEREAS, Under the guidance of the American Council on the  
2 Teaching of Foreign Languages, language education programs  
3 throughout the United States are celebrating 2005 as “The Year of  
4 Languages”; and

5 WHEREAS, For over 200 years, citizens from other countries  
6 have settled in our communities, enhancing the diversity of this  
7 nation and underlining the importance of understanding different  
8 cultures and languages; and

9 WHEREAS, Americans have growing social, cultural and  
10 economic ties to the global community, offering great opportunities  
11 and presenting new challenges as we seek to communicate with and  
12 understand those from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The underlying tenet of “The Year of Languages” is  
15 to celebrate the increasing importance of learning other languages  
16 for use in our schools and everyday life, not only to promote a  
17 greater understanding of others, but to enhance career opportunities  
18 and to provide life-long learning opportunities for people beyond  
19 school age; and

20 WHEREAS, Foreign language educators are working  
21 cooperatively to promote the benefits of language learning to



1 students, parents, businesses, health and social services leaders, and  
2 policy makers throughout this State and the nation; and

3 WHEREAS, Language education in the 21st century includes a  
4 commitment to the study of long sequences of world languages  
5 beginning in early grades to allow students to develop the level of  
6 proficiency needed to communicate effectively with others from  
7 different cultures, both at home and abroad; and

8 WHEREAS, The benefits gained from studying other cultures and  
9 languages include improved cognitive, analytical and  
10 communication skills, improved academic achievement, expanded  
11 career opportunities, and greater international awareness and  
12 understanding; and

13 WHEREAS, This year of celebrating languages serves as a look  
14 to the future for young Americans who will be entering the  
15 workforce at a time when international awareness, cross-cultural  
16 understanding and linguistic capacity are increasingly important for  
17 enhancing career opportunities and for their success as citizens of a  
18 broader world; and

19 WHEREAS, Each month "The Year of Languages" initiative will  
20 focus on different areas, including the importance of international  
21 engagement, the interrelationships between languages and other  
22 subject areas or professions, higher education learning, exploring  
23 different languages and cultures within our communities, adult  
24 learning and language use, parents' roles in providing language  
25 opportunities, early language learning and maintenance of our  
26 heritage languages such as Native American languages and  
27 American Sign Language; and

28 WHEREAS, The success of "The Year of Languages" depends on  
29 the support and involvement of local foreign language teachers and  
30 guidance counselors, those who have access to the students, parents  
31 and community members to whom this effort is intended to reach;  
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Language educators are urging the public to  
34 recognize the value of delivering better education to students, of  
35 expanding the cultural and literary horizons of adult learners and of  
36 strengthening America's position and security around the world;  
37 now, therefore, be it

38 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
39 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislature of the State of  
40 Nevada does hereby recognize 2005 as "The Year of Languages";  
41 and be it further

42 RESOLVED, That the efforts of organizations such as the Sierra  
43 Nevada World Language Collaborative, a 26-year-old organization  
44 of Washoe County foreign language educators that meet to share



1 teaching ideas and to promote the study of foreign languages in our  
2 schools are hereby recognized and encouraged; and be it further  
3 RESOLVED, That the residents of the State of Nevada are urged  
4 to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by  
5 language education programs in the State and to support and  
6 participate in these programs to gain proficiency not only in English,  
7 but in other languages as well.



