

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

FILE NUMBER.....

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Foreign language educators are working cooperatively to promote the benefits of language learning to students, parents, businesses, health and social services leaders, and policy makers throughout this State and the nation; and

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

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

WHEREAS, This year of celebrating languages serves as a look to the future for young Americans who will be entering the workforce at a time when international awareness, cross-cultural understanding and linguistic capacity are increasingly important for

enhancing career opportunities and for their success as citizens of a broader world; and

WHEREAS, Each month “The Year of Languages” initiative will focus on different areas, including the importance of international engagement, the interrelationships between languages and other subject areas or professions, higher education learning, exploring different languages and cultures within our communities, adult learning and language use, parents’ roles in providing language opportunities, early language learning and maintenance of our heritage languages such as Native American languages and American Sign Language; and

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the efforts of organizations such as the Sierra Nevada World Language Collaborative, a 26-year-old organization of Washoe County foreign language educators that meet to share teaching ideas and to promote the study of foreign languages in our schools are hereby recognized and encouraged; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the residents of the State of Nevada are urged to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by language education programs in the State and to support and participate in these programs to gain proficiency not only in English, but in other languages as well.