

Washington D.C.- Congressman Steve King (R-IA) today issued the following statement after being honored with the "A in English" award from U.S. English, Inc. for his efforts to make English the official language of the United States. With 1.8 million members throughout the United States, U.S. English, Inc. is the nation's largest citizen advocacy organization working on behalf of efforts to promote the adoption of English as the official language of the United States.

"A common language is the single most unifying force in every civilization," said King. "At present there are over 300 languages spoken in the United States, but English is the language that opens the doors to better jobs and better opportunities for its speakers. Both our economy and our national unity would be strengthened if Congress made English the official language of the United States."

Among the factors considered by U.S. English, Inc. in determining which Members of Congress would receive the coveted "A in English" award was whether Members had cosponsored HR 997, the "English Language Unity Act" which was introduced by Congressman King. The "English Language Unity Act" seeks to establish English as the officially recognized language of the United States and requires official business of the federal government to be conducted in English. Congressman King's bill currently has 137 bipartisan cosponsors.

As a Member of the Iowa State Senate, Congressman King led the effort to pass the legislation designating English as Iowa's official language. In 2008, King won a lawsuit he filed against Governor Culver and Secretary of State Mauro which ended their practice of illegally publishing voter registration forms and absentee ballot application forms in languages other than English on the Secretary of State website in violation of Iowa's English law.

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