

Sample Letter

July 30, 1996

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

I am a French teacher at Lexington Elementary School in Lexington, South Carolina. I teach 500 students in grades one, two and three. Our foreign language program for grades one through twelve was implemented due to parent support. Our parents want their children to have the best opportunity for employment with international businesses that have established operations in our county and state (BMW, Pirelli Cable, Michelin, Policy Management Systems Corporation, etc...).

I am a member of the National Network for Early Language Learning (NNELL) and am presently serving as National Political Action Chairperson. I am writing to let you know that NNELL is a professional organization of 950 members who are seeking to support early foreign language learning. May 2, 1996 I was privileged to meet with my congressional representatives and staff and learned of the severe budget cuts to programs that support Foreign Languages and International Education in FY 1996.

Considering the amount of international business which has become commonplace in American communities, we ask that you provide our citizens with the means for obtaining the crucial skills that lead to understanding and communicating with other cultures. We feel that the study of a foreign language gives all members of our society the opportunity to compete in a global economy. We ask that you reinstate the funding for Language and International Education to FY 1995 levels, at a minimum.

Please keep me apprised of your actions and progress on this very important issue.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours.

Catherine "Kay" Hewitt
Political Action Chair, National
Network for Early Language Learning
109 Westridge Road
Elgin, South Carolina 29045