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It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter seeking your support for The Seal of Biliteracy in New Hampshire.

The Seal of Biliteracy is an initiative that celebrates and encourages the study of languages.

In 2019 alone, nearly 100,000 high school students across the country were awarded state or district Seals of Biliteracy for being proficient in English and at least one other language. Studies show that proficiency in a student's first language can facilitate English literacy just as native English speakers can benefit from achieving proficiency in a second language.

Additionally, literacy in two or more languages will increase marketability of our graduates both in the workforce as well as in higher education programs. The Seal of Biliteracy is a prestigious academic recognition program officially established in 38 states and the District of Columbia.

New Hampshire students do not presently have access to the Seal of Biliteracy, but New Hampshire world language educators have been working hard to get the word out about this program, to make it available to all of our students. Both Manchester and Hudson school districts have been working to implement programs.

HR 3119 in the U.S. House of Representatives establishes a federal grant program to help states establish a Biliteracy Seal program that encourages and recognizes high school students who achieve proficiency in English and a second language. This bill directs the Department of Education to award renewable two-year grants to states to establish or improve Seal of Biliteracy programs.

I am also happy to announce the Governor Sununu enthusiastically joins with me in support of this program and hope that you will join us in this excellent education program.

Sincerely,

Frank Edelblut
Commissioner of Education