

The Honorable Jim Langevin  
House Committee on Education and Labor Member Day Testimony  
April 22

Testimony

Good morning and thank you for accepting my testimony on my education and labor priorities. I want to extend my sincerest thanks to Chairman Scott and for his leadership in providing an equitable education for all students, promoting fair labor practices, and ensuring we prepare our workforce for the challenges that lie ahead.

My first priority, as the co-chair of the Career and Technical Education Caucus, is that we continue to fund and strengthen CTE and similar workforce development programs. CTE programs have been proven to launch students into rewarding careers and fill workforce gaps. Classes in cybersecurity, coding, graphic design, and robotics make CTE the workforce pipeline of the future.

My second priority is to provide resources for English learners and promote bilingual education. The English learner population

is growing rapidly in Rhode Island, as it is across the country. These students require particular assistance to stay on grade level, and our country should celebrate students who can speak multiple languages. Moreover, there is an English learner teacher shortage, and I will be re-introducing the *Reaching English Learners Act* to address that gap. This bill will fund partnerships between institutions of higher education and high-need school districts to develop teacher prep programs that are tailored to train teachers on providing bilingual education, offering social-emotional support, and engaging with families and communities.

Finally, I urge this committee to take up *Domenic & Ed's Law*, which I introduced yesterday. Young people who become permanently disabled have their student loans forgiven, but their families' loans should be forgiven, too. It's time for Congress to address this glaring loophole and make sure that parents aren't struggling to pay off student debt as they help their kids with a significant life change.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you  
today.