

Hello, my name is Sarah Barnhardt. I am a professor of English as Second Language at the Community College of Baltimore County, where I have taught since 1998. The CALL bill HB 0569 is important to me as an English language learning faculty member because it will address an inequitable situation, namely that some language learners receive credit while others don't. My background is in linguistics, Russian linguistics specifically, and I understand the amount of work, expertise and effort it takes to learn a language to the level where you can use it professionally at college and in a career. This level of language acquisition goes way beyond what we study as World Languages and approaches graduate level coursework. For this reason, English language learners deserve to receive World Language and Humanities credits for learning English. Furthermore, these learners are not just learning a language. To be fluent at this level, one needs to study the language in context. The context at a community college includes studying literature, history, culture, and sociology among other topics. At most community colleges, we use authentic materials that reflect the academic topics learners will encounter in their college studies. These are not basic language courses and students are working with college level materials in ESL classes. These amazing talented learners should receive credit for their studies and work and the CALL bill HBO569 will remedy that. Thank for hearing my testimony.