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With Ballot Question 2, you will decide my students' fate. Either they will be allowed to learn and develop skills at their natural rate, or else they will be forced to follow a law that may not be appropriate for them. Either they will continue to be taught by teachers trained in their special needs, or else they will be sent to well-meaning teachers who have never learned how to teach this population. Either they will become bilingual, productive citizens who can work with clients and customers in America and in the world who speak different languages, or else they will become the victims of a double standard, forbidden to study in their native language while American peers take classes in the very languages they are prohibited from using.

You decide my students' fate. If you vote No on Ballot Question 2, my students will be allowed to remain in English as a Second Language classes for a few years, where they will learn, in year one, past, present, and future, and in year two passive voice, perfect, and conditional. They will take math, science and history classes in their native languages, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, so they don't fall behind when they are mainstreamed into American classes. If they speak Hindi, Somalian, or Chinese, they will take math, science, and history with ESL teachers who understand their linguistic gaps, modify the curriculum and speak at a language level my students can understand.

If you vote Yes on Ballot Question 2, you will force my students to go to American classes after they have only been in America one year, have only studied English one year. They will not understand their American teachers, the textbooks will be overwhelming, they'll ask their friends to do their homework for them, they will fail their classes, they will drop out. High school students who, at age 16 or 17, have only gone to school 5 or 7 years, will be required to do high school work with American students when they can barely read and write in their own language.

You decide where my students will go next year. Picture yourself in high school, taking French 1, then going to France to study. Would you have been able to do French coursework? Then how can you require that of my students?

My students are here to learn English. But they need more than one year to master the language.

You decide their fate. You decide their success in life. High school drop out? Or bilingual international banker?