

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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Roy Romer
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, many citizens of Colorado are the descendants of Hispanic and Native American people who inhabited Colorado long before the influx of other Americans into Colorado;

WHEREAS, many of the first residents of Colorado were non-english speakers;

WHEREAS, the ability to speak a language other than English increases understanding among our interdependent world and enhances Colorado's economic opportunities in international trade;

WHEREAS, on November 8, 1988 the citizens of Colorado adopted English as the official language of the state of Colorado;

WHEREAS, proponents of official English defended the proposed amendment on the grounds that no discrimination would result against language minority groups;

WHEREAS, the official English constitutional amendment should not be used to justify any discriminatory actions taken against any person who speaks a language other than English;

WHEREAS, we should move forward in our quest toward a society that is free of race and national origin discrimination;

WHEREAS, Colorado should not accept any interpretation of the official English amendment which leads to discrimination against any language minority group;

NOW THEREFORE, I Roy Romer, Governor of the State of Colorado under the authority vested in me under the constitution and laws of this state, hereby order the following:

1. No state agency, authority, or employee shall deny or deprive any person of any benefit, privilege, or right on the basis of a person's limited English proficiency or the person's language minority background;
2. The constitutional provision making English the official language of Colorado shall not be used to deny any person who speaks a language other than English the right to due process including interpreters in the Courts, voting rights, bilingual or English as a second language educational instruction, or assistance in languages other than English.

3. The Colorado Civil Rights Division is hereby designated the state agency to receive complaints of discrimination based on misinterpretations of the official English constitutional amendment and to assure that persons who speak languages other than English are treated equally under the law and free from any discrimination.
4. The people of the State of Colorado are encouraged to obtain proficiency in the English language and to maintain and enhance their ability to speak languages other than English.

GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State
of Colorado, this 30th day of
December, 1988.



Roy Romer
Governor

