



February 27, 2026

The Honorable Chris Erwin  
Chairman  
Education Committee  
Georgia House of Representatives  
220-B State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Carmen Rice  
Vice Chairwoman  
Education Committee  
Georgia House of Representatives  
504-C Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Scott Hilton  
Secretary  
Education Committee  
Georgia House of Representatives  
504-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Doreen Carter  
Member  
Education Committee  
Georgia House of Representatives  
509-G Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Chairman Erwin, Vice Chairwoman Rice, Secretary Hilton, and Representative Carter:

On behalf of Health Students Taking Action Together (H-STAT), we write to strongly support HB 437 which strengthens language access and parental engagement for limited English proficient (LEP) students and their families across Georgia. [H-STAT](#) represents the collective voices of hundreds of healthcare students and trainees across Georgia who are dedicated to improving health outcomes for all citizens. We urge the Education Committee in the Georgia House of Representatives to support this bill.

In Georgia, there are around 108,000 students involved in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. For many of these students and their families, they report lower rates of [engagement](#) and participation in school-related activities, [difficulty understanding](#) school communications and academic expectations, and [inadequate](#) or inconsistent translation and interpreting resources at schools. All of these factors indicate that ESOL families are barred from school engagement due to structural barriers rather than cultural limitations.

Parental school engagement has significant implications on the education attainment and health of the child. Several studies demonstrated that [parental involvement](#) in education is associated with lower dropout rates for children and higher rates of 4-year completion for high school and educational attainment. When families can effectively communicate with schools, children are more likely to receive special education services, maintain consistent attendance and avoid preventable health crises that lead to

emergency department visits or hospitalizations. Additionally, parental involvement in their child's education [fosters](#) positive emotional and mental health outcomes for adolescents, and it has been linked with reduced depressive symptoms in high school-aged youth. Importantly, parental support and family engagement in their child's school fosters [environments](#) where children's physical activity increases and there is a lower likelihood of engaging in risky health behaviors. These positive health outcomes translate into substantial savings for state Medicaid programs and the broader health care system. Investing in language access and parent engagement is a fiscally responsible strategy that strengthens families and improves child well-being.

In conclusion, we strongly support HB 437, as it establishes statewide standards for qualified interpreters, requiring meaningful community outreach, and ensuring that parents receive essential information in a language they understand. As such, this bill promotes transparency, accountability, and equity within Georgia's schools systems. Thank you for your consideration of the issue. We look forward to working with you to promote the health of people in Georgia. If you have any questions, please contact Nicholas Wilson, H-STAT President, at [nicholas@healthstatgeorgia.org](mailto:nicholas@healthstatgeorgia.org).

Sincerely,

Nicholas Wilson  
H-STAT President  
Health Students Taking Action Together