Madame Chair, Madame Vice Chair, honorable members of the Delegation, good morning, and thank you for providing this opportunity to give input. I am Ryan Pontier, and I am with the League of United Latin American Citizens in Florida.

We first would like to thank last year’s sponsors of the Native Language Assessment bill: then-Representative (and now Senator) Ana María Rodríguez, Representative Vance Aloupis, and Senator Annette Taddeo.

This year, we find ourselves aligned with various other organizations in our legislative requests. These organizations include Florida PTA, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Sunshine State TESOL, and Florida NAACP.

First, as before, we are deeply concerned about the state receiving bad data on state assessments when students cannot yet show everything they know and can do in English. We continue to ask for *native language assessment*, which is a requirement of the Every Student Succeeds Act and aligned with one of MDCPS’s legislative priorities (GED in Haitian Creole). This bill would cover standardized assessments, End of Course, GED, Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener, and others. It would start with Spanish and Haitian Creole and phase in other languages represented in Florida.

Second, we request a *state advisory council for English learners* comprised of parents, practitioners, experts, policy makers, and other stakeholders. Their knowledge will help guide decision making in the Department of Education and with future legislation.

Finally, for today, we ask that you direct the Florida Department of Education to *remove the requirement for in-person* English proficiency testing for English learners, starting in January. Requiring them to be physically on campus is likely to cause undue and inequitable harm to English learners, many of whom are students of color.

If you have any questions, I can be contacted at the phone number or email in my background.

Thank you for your time, and may you and your families experience a safe and healthy holiday season, new year, and legislative session.