Still, Lucero's speech helps us think critically about the executive order that recognizes English as the official language of the United States. Her speech challenges the idea that only English-speaking people can be engaged, productive citizens and is an example of how speakers of languages other than English have resisted assimilation into mainstream US culture in the past.

Lucero underscores the humanity of the Spanish-speaking people and their loyalty to the United States. However, as she emphasizes the European colonial roots of the Spanish language to justify why it should continue to be taught in the schools, she separates the so-called "Spanish Americans" from Indigenous people and their influence. In this way, she replicates raced, classed hierarchies.

Aurora Lucero (1894-1963) was a writer, folklorist, and educator who thought it was important to defend and document the culture of Spanish-speaking communities in New Mexico.

When Lucero was growing up in territory of New Mexico during the early twentieth century, the population of the territory was considered un-American and therefore unworthy of inclusion in the United States. In 1910, a writer for a North Dakota newspaper who compared the territories of New Mexico to Arizona noted, for instance, that while Arizona had inhabitants capable of becoming "good American citizens," the population of New Mexico was "very different."

The same year, Lucero rejected the idea the Spanish-speaking people of New Mexico were inherently un-American in her speech, "Shall the Spanish Language be Taught in the Schools of New Mexico?"

Lucero argued Spanish should remain a language of instruction in New Mexico schools due to its economic utility, literary and colonial legacies, and cultural value. She insisted the Spanish-speaking people should not have to give up their cultural and linguistic identities in order to belong in the United States.

"We want to learn the language of our country," she asserted, "but we do not need, on that account, to deny our origin or or race or our language..."