

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6623

To require all Federal agencies to translate COVID–19 materials into multiple languages, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2020

Ms. MENG (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. PORTER, Mr. CASE, and Ms. ESHOO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To require all Federal agencies to translate COVID–19 materials into multiple languages, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “COVID–19 Language
5 Access Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSLATION OF MATERIALS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency that receives
3 Federal assistance related to the COVID–19 pandemic
4 shall translate any English language written material pre-
5 pared for the general public relating to such pandemic into
6 the languages described in subsection (b) not later than
7 7 days after any such material is made available in
8 English.

9 (b) LANGUAGES COVERED.—The material described
10 in subsection (a) shall be translated, at a minimum, into
11 Spanish, Arabic, Cambodian, Chinese, Haitian Creole,
12 French, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Rus-
13 sian, Tagalog, Urdu, Vietnamese, Greek, Polish, Thai, and
14 Portuguese.

15 (c) DEFINITION OF COVID–19 PANDEMIC.—In this
16 section, the term “COVID–19 pandemic” means the pub-
17 lic health emergency declared by the Secretary pursuant
18 to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act on Janu-
19 ary 31, 2020, entitled “Determination that a Public
20 Health Emergency Exists Nationwide as the Result of the
21 2019 Novel Coronavirus”.

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