

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1009

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CASE, Mr. LIEU, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. PORTER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CARSON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. MEEKS) 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,
6 including COVID–19 vaccine distribution and education,
7 into the languages described in subsection (b) not later
8 than 7 days after any such material is made available in
9 English.

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

16 (c) DEFINITION OF COVID–19 PANDEMIC.—In this
17 section, the term “COVID–19 pandemic” means the pub-
18 lic health emergency declared by the Secretary pursuant
19 to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act on Janu-
20 ary 31, 2020, entitled “Determination that a Public
21 Health Emergency Exists Nationwide as the Result of the
22 2019 Novel Coronavirus”.

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