

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4809

To require the White House and each agency to provide an official website in the five most commonly used languages in the United States other than English as determined by the Census data and any other languages determined to be appropriate by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 23, 2019

Mr. CORREA (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. PORTER, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SOTO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. ESPAILLAT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To require the White House and each agency to provide an official website in the five most commonly used languages in the United States other than English as determined by the Census data and any other languages determined to be appropriate by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 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 “White House Account-
5 ability for Language Diversity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In the past decades it has become standard
9 practice to publish versions of the White House and
10 other agency websites in Spanish.

11 (2) At least 36,000,000 United States residents
12 who speak Spanish as their first language depend
13 upon these websites to access important information
14 that can play a critical role in their life.

15 (3) In 2010, for 59,000,000 people, English
16 was not their first language.

17 (4) In addition to English, the top languages in
18 the United States are Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog,
19 Vietnamese, and French.

20 (5) Millions of people within the United States
21 will benefit by having websites translated into mul-
22 tiple languages.

23 (6) The United States of America is a diverse
24 Nation and, as such, does not have an official lan-
25 guage.

1 (7) Since our founding, our country has been in
2 a constant state of growth. We have consistently
3 grown more multilingual because of people from
4 across the world seeking a better future while car-
5 rying a hope of achieving the American dream.

6 (8) As this is happening, the United States
7 must adapt and make our democracy more accessible
8 for everyone.

9 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

10 The purpose of this Act is to—

11 (1) require the White House and agencies to
12 provide resources in multiple languages so that peo-
13 ple can read information in the language they are
14 most comfortable with; and

15 (2) acknowledge the diversity of our country
16 and use creative solutions to make sure that there
17 is equity in accessing information from our govern-
18 ment.

19 **SEC. 4. FIVE MOST COMMONLY USED LANGUAGE WEBSITES**
20 **REQUIRED.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the White House and
23 the head of each agency shall establish an official website
24 in the five most commonly used languages in the United
25 States other than English as determined by the Census

1 data and any other language determined to be appropriate
2 by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget
3 to increase accessibility to everyone residing in the United
4 States. Any such website may only include official content
5 and is not required to translate external websites that are
6 not official content. Any website in a language other than
7 English shall be substantially similar in design and scope
8 of content to the English version.

9 (b) LINK ON MAIN PAGE.—A link to the website re-
10 quired under subsection (a) shall be easily accessible and
11 in plain view on the main page of the English version of
12 the White House and agency website. The link shall be
13 in the language of that website.

14 (c) MAINTENANCE OF WEBSITE.—The President and
15 the head of each agency shall maintain and update the
16 website required under subsection (a) on a regular basis.

17 (d) AGENCY DEFINED.—The term “agency” has the
18 meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5, United
19 States Code.

○