

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6033

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

AN ACT

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services
to establish a task force to improve access to health
care information technology for non-English speakers.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Patient
3 Education And Knowledge Act of 2024” or the “SPEAK
4 Act of 2024”.

5 **SEC. 2. GUIDANCE ON FURNISHING SERVICES VIA TELE-**
6 **HEALTH TO INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED**
7 **ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of
10 Health and Human Services, in consultation with 1 or
11 more entities from each of the categories described in
12 paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (b), shall issue
13 and disseminate, or update and revise as applicable, guid-
14 ance for the entities described in such subsection on the
15 following:

16 (1) Best practices on facilitating and inte-
17 grating use of interpreters during a telemedicine ap-
18 pointment.

19 (2) Best practices on providing accessible in-
20 structions on how to access telecommunications sys-
21 tems (as such term is used for purposes of section
22 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
23 1395m(m)) for individuals with limited English pro-
24 ficiency.

1 (3) Best practices on improving access to dig-
2 ital patient portals for individuals with limited
3 English proficiency.

4 (4) Best practices on integrating the use of
5 video platforms that enable multi-person video calls
6 furnished via a telecommunications system for pur-
7 poses of providing interpretation during a telemedi-
8 cine appointment for an individual with limited
9 English proficiency.

10 (5) Best practices for providing patient mate-
11 rials, communications, and instructions in multiple
12 languages, including text message appointment re-
13 minders and prescription information.

14 (b) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—For purposes of sub-
15 section (a), an entity described in this subsection is an
16 entity in 1 or more of the following categories:

17 (1) Health information technology service pro-
18 viders, including—

19 (A) electronic medical record companies;

20 (B) remote patient monitoring companies;

21 and

22 (C) telehealth or mobile health vendors and
23 companies.

24 (2) Health care providers, including—

25 (A) physicians; and

1 (B) hospitals.

2 (3) Health insurers.

3 (4) Language service companies.

4 (5) Interpreter or translator professional asso-
5 ciations.

6 (6) Health and language services quality certifi-
7 cation organizations.

8 (7) Patient and consumer advocates, including
9 such advocates that work with individuals with lim-
10 ited English proficiency.

Passed the House of Representatives September 17,
2024.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.