

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Grace Meng
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Meng,

As the largest association of interpreting and translation providers in the United States, the American Translators Association is pleased to endorse H.R. 1009 to require each federal agency that receives federal assistance related to the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic to translate any English language written material prepared for the general public relating to the pandemic into specified languages not later than seven days after such material is made available in English.

Our members serve the limited English Proficient (LEP), a community of millions that has been left behind in many of the efforts to combat the COVID-19 health emergency. The pandemic has magnified language access issues and disparities in health care, as more than 25 million people in the United States have limited English proficiency—15 percent of whom are age 65 or older. For many limited English proficient individuals, their work on the front lines of the pandemic response leaves them more vulnerable and subject to greater risks of contracting COVID-19.

We applaud this legislation as a primary step in leveling the playing field for individuals and to the benefit of public health in combatting the pandemic.

Sincerely,



Ted Wozniak
President
American Translators Association