



TAKE ACTION FOR LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR AMERICANS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

25.7 million people in the U.S. are limited English proficient (LEP), including 68% of Latinos, 40% of Asian Americans, and 19% of Native Americans. Millions rely on government services and federally funded programs, yet they face access barriers simply because English is not their first language.

In 2000, President Clinton signed Executive Order (E.O.) 13166 to ensure LEP Americans could access these services. Upheld for 25 years across administrations, the E.O. was repealed by President Trump in 2025. Since then, language assistance has been discontinued for essential government services even though Title VI still requires it.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights examined these barriers in its report, *Language Access for Individuals with Limited English Proficiency*. The Commission found that LEP individuals faced significant obstacles in accessing social safety net programs such as SNAP food assistance, hospital websites, and health services.

The Commission issued **unanimous, bipartisan recommendations** to the President and Congress:

- **Federal agencies** should continue providing translated materials and oral interpreters.
- **Congress** should codify language access—consistent with E.O. 13166—into federal law, ensuring meaningful access to federally operated and federally funded programs for LEP individuals.
- **Best practices** should be adopted, including quality controls, reviewers, and staff training on language assistance resources.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Congress should codify and pass the *Language Access for All Act of 2026* (H.R. 7223 / S. 4985).

Read H.R. 7223



Read S. 4985



Read the Report



Call Your Representative



Report Language Access Barriers



Brought to you by



Glenn D. Magpantay
Commissioner
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
gmagpantay@usccr.gov
917-439-3158

Stephanie Wong
Special Assistant to Commissioner
Magpantay
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
swong@usccr.gov

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