

REPS. CHU, MENG, VARGAS, AND COLLEAGUES DEMAND ANSWERS ON TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S LANGUAGE ACCESS ROLLBACKS

BACKGROUND

On March 1, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order (EO) 14224, which attempted to declare English the official language of the United States and rescinded EO 13166, a longstanding policy that established language access across federal agencies and funding recipients. On July 14, 2025, the Department of Justice (DOJ) released a memo instructing agencies to implement EO 14224 by phasing out “unnecessary multilingual offerings”, considering English-only services, and removing multilingual resources. These actions hurt over 25.7 million people with limited English proficiency (LEP) in the United States who rely on vital translation services for health care, education, housing, legal processes, and more.

RESPONSE

Reps. Judy Chu (CA-28), Grace Meng (NY-06), and Juan Vargas (CA-52), and 58 colleagues led a letter to President Trump and Attorney General Pam Bondi demanding answers on the significant legal, operational, and civil rights concerns this memo and EO 14224 present.

These questions include:

- What authority do the President and DOJ have to declare that English is the official language of the United States?
- How does DOJ define “necessary,” “unnecessary,” and “non-essential” in regard to multilingual services?
- What standards or criteria will agencies use to determine whether a program “serves the public at large better if operated exclusively in English”?
- How will DOJ ensure any reduction in LEP services does not conflict with obligations under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973?

ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS

National Immigration Law Center (NILC), Asian & Pacific Islander Health Forum, Asian Americans Advancing Justice- Southern California (AJSOCAL), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), Stop AAPI Hate, AAPI Equity Alliance, South Asian Network, National Hispanic Health Foundation, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), Justice in Aging, AIDS Foundation Chicago, Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC), CenterLink, Hep Free Hawai'i, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), Chinatown Service Center, Thai Community Development Center, Pacific Asian Counseling Services (PACS), Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP), CalCenter, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), National Association of the Deaf (NAD), UnidosUS, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), Respond Crisis, Disability Rights California, South Asian Public Health Association (SAPHA), National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA), Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd - U.S. Provinces, and National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

To access the English version of this letter, which includes all the Members' signatures, click [**here**](#).

