

April 11, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear President Trump and Attorney General Bondi:

We write to express our strong opposition to President Trump’s signing of Executive Order (EO) 14224 and revocation of EO 13166<sup>1</sup>, which for 25 years has required federal agencies to provide assistance for people with limited English proficiency (LEP) and will have dire effects on limited English proficient communities across the United States. We strongly condemn this reckless decision to weaken language accessibility, which threatens the federal government’s compliance and enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and needlessly make it more difficult for millions of Americans to access government services and pay their taxes. As a result, we ask that you provide us with information about any potential impacts of revoking EO 13166 and recent decisions to cancel language translation contracts with federal agencies.

More than 25.7 million individuals in the United States – over 8% of the population –are LEP.<sup>2</sup> In some states, that rate is even higher: for example, 20% of residents in California, 14% of Texas, and 12% in Florida have limited English proficiency.<sup>3</sup> With more than 350 languages spoken across the country, it is critical that the federal government ensures language accessibility for the resources and services it provides. Language barriers can pose a significant obstacle for individuals attempting to integrate into our society and access public services and institutions, including health care, emergency preparedness, the legal system, schools, and employment. All Americans deserve to access the services and resources their taxes are paying for without barriers based solely on language proficiency.

In August 2000, President Clinton signed EO 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency,” which required federal agencies to “examine the services they provide, identify any need for services to those with LEP, and develop and implement a system to provide those services so LEP persons can have meaningful access to them.”<sup>4</sup> This EO contained two major initiatives. The first was to better enforce and implement an existing statutory obligation, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Under this statute, recipients of federal financial assistance are prohibited from discriminating against individuals based on national origin and must provide meaningful access to individuals with LEP. Recipients of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/06/2025-03694/designating-english-as-the-official-language-of-the-united-states>

<sup>2</sup> [Language Access for Individuals with Limited English Proficiency | U.S. Commission on Civil Rights](#)

<sup>3</sup> [2015 Language Map App | LEP](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Federal Register :: Improving Access to Services for Persons With Limited English Proficiency](#)

federal funding include state and local governments, health care providers, school districts, public transportation agencies, and colleges and universities. EO 13166 required federal agencies to develop guidance that clarifies language accessibility obligations for recipients of federal assistance. For instance, the Department of Justice developed guidance specifically for state and local law enforcement agencies and departments of corrections. Second, the EO set forth a new obligation: all federal agencies were required to meet the same requirements as their funding recipients. In effect, this EO mandated language accessibility requirements across the federal government and for any institution or organization that receives federal funds.<sup>5</sup>

Presidents of both parties, including President Trump during his first term, have kept EO 13166 in place for the past 25 years. The judiciary has also upheld the importance of language accessibility for Americans with LEP. In 1974, the Supreme Court ruled in *Lau v. Nichols* that discrimination against people with limited English proficiency is a type of national origin discrimination.<sup>6</sup>

When the President repealed EO 13166, he instructed the Department of Justice to rescind and replace any policy guidance issued under that original order.<sup>7</sup> This includes federal guidance on how to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and directions to agencies to ensure they are meeting the needs of Americans with LEP. By withdrawing such guidance, your administration is no longer detailing the language accessibility regulations or policies that agencies must follow, risking systemic noncompliance with civil rights laws and jeopardizing the quality of language services or translated materials these agencies provide.

Additionally, we have received reports that the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, has cancelled at least ten contracts that provided federal agencies with language or translation services.<sup>8</sup> This is including a contract that provided translation services to Americans or businesses calling the Department of Homeland Security about their employment status or benefits, leading to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services directing employees to discontinue any call when they are not fluent in the caller's language.<sup>9</sup>

Your administration has specified that agencies beyond the Department of Justice are “not required to amend, remove, or otherwise stop production of documents, products, or other services prepared or offered in languages other than English.”<sup>10</sup> Yet we have serious concerns that your decision to rescind EO 13166, and remove language accessibility guidance, will reduce the availability of language services and translated materials across the federal government. Consequently, we seek information to confirm that your administration is ensuring that language

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<sup>5</sup> [Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Language Access and Civil Rights: Analyzing the Impact of the Executive Order Claiming to Make English the Official National Language - NILC](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Designating English as the Official Language of The United States – The White House](#)

<sup>8</sup> [DOGE Is Killing Translation Contracts, With a Nudge From Trump - NOTUS \(Allbritton Journalism Institute\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Trump administration cancels translation services for those seeking to access or correct their immigration status - Government Executive](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Designating English as the Official Language of The United States – The White House](#)


accessibility for Americans with LEP remains a priority and language translation services are not disrupted.

To assist with this effort, we request that you promptly provide answers to the following inquiries:

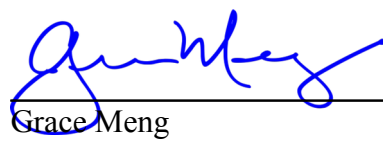
1. What studies did your administration conduct into the impacts that revoking EO 13166 will have on limited English proficient communities?
2. Less than three weeks after revoking EO 13166, DOGE reportedly canceled at least ten contracts that provided federal agencies with language or translation services, including contracts with the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services.
  - a. Has your administration reviewed how terminating these language translation contracts will impact LEP communities?
  - b. Will your administration and DOGE continue to cut additional language translation contracts?
  - c. What plans, if any, does the Trump Administration have to restore the services that these recently terminated contracts provided?
3. Have any agencies or recipients of federal funding reported disruptions to the provision of language accessibility services?
  - a. Have any individuals with limited English proficiency reported disruptions to their provision of language accessibility services?
4. How will your administration facilitate adequate language accessibility services for LEP communities?
  - a. What guidance is your administration providing to ensure agencies and federal funding recipients are complying with federal laws including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act?
5. The Department of Justice recently withdrew federal guidance materials and documents for agencies and federal funding recipients that outlined how to best meet language accessibility guidelines. What studies has your administration conducted to understand how this decision will impact recipients' ability to comply with federal language accessibility laws?

There is no data that supports the assertion made by your administration that linguistic diversity threatens the integrity of the nation. By rescinding EO 13166 and withdrawing guidance that helps to provide meaningful language accessibility, your administration risks disconnecting millions of limited English proficient people across the United States from government services. We condemn your recent decision to issue EO 14224 and urge you to reinstate EO 13166 immediately.

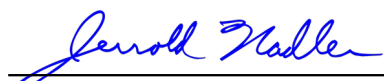
Sincerely,



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



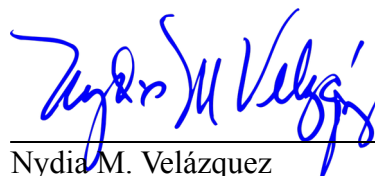
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Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress




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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

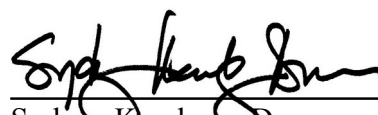


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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Dave Min  
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager Dove  
Member of Congress



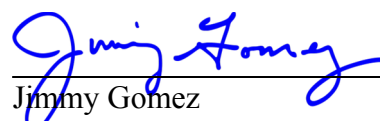
Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



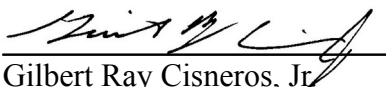
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



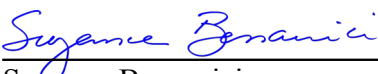
Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



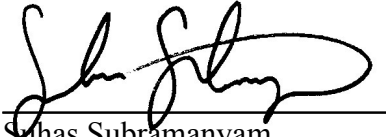
Al Green  
Member of Congress  
Scion of the Enslaved  
Africans –  
Sacrificed to Make America  
Great  
  
Progenitor of August and  
August 20th as  
Slavery Remembrance Month  
and Day



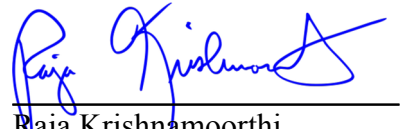
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



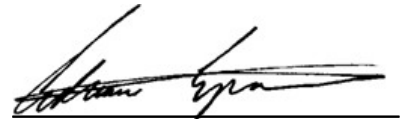
Ed Case  
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



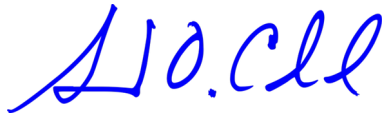
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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress