

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4780

To remove linguistic barriers to participation in Gun Violence Prevention Strategies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2023

Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To remove linguistic barriers to participation in Gun Violence Prevention Strategies.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Language Access to
5 Gun Violence Prevention Strategies Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.—The
2 term “community-based organization” means a
3 neighborhood or community-based organization, as
4 that term is defined in section 901 of title I of the
5 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
6 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251).

7 (2) EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER.—The
8 term “extreme risk protection order” means a writ-
9 ten order or warrant, issued by a State or Tribal
10 court or signed by a magistrate (or other com-
11 parable judicial officer), the primary purpose of
12 which is to reduce the risk of firearm-related death
13 or injury by doing 1 or more of the following:

14 (A) Temporarily prohibiting a named indi-
15 vidual from owning, purchasing, possessing, re-
16 ceiving, or having under the custody or control
17 of the individual, a firearm.

18 (B) Having a firearm temporarily removed
19 or requiring the temporary surrender of a fire-
20 arm from a named individual.

21 (3) FIREARM.—The term “firearm” has the
22 meaning given the term in section 921 of title 18,
23 United States Code.

24 (4) GUN VIOLENCE.—The term “gun violence”
25 includes mass shooting incidents, other firearm

1 homicides or assaults, firearm suicides or self-harm,
2 unintentional firearm deaths and injuries, and fire-
3 arm-related crime.

4 (5) GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGY.—
5 The term “Gun Violence Prevention Strategy”
6 means programs, policies, or practices that have the
7 potential to reduce firearm-related violence, injuries,
8 death, or crime within populations or settings experi-
9 encing elevated risk.

10 (6) INDIVIDUAL WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PRO-
11 FICIENCY.—The term “individual with limited
12 English proficiency” means an individual who does
13 not speak English as the individual’s primary lan-
14 guage and has a limited ability to read, write, speak,
15 or understand English.

16 (7) LANGUAGE ACCESS.—The term “language
17 access” means the provision of culturally competent
18 and effective language services to an individual with
19 limited English proficiency designed to enhance that
20 individual’s access to, understanding of, or benefit
21 from the services, activities, programs, or benefits
22 provided by a Federal agency.

23 (8) LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT POPU-
24 LATION.—The term “limited English proficient pop-

1 ulation” means the sum of all individuals with lim-
2 ited English proficiency.

3 (9) PRIORITY LANGUAGES.—The term “priority
4 languages” means, at a minimum, the 10 most com-
5 monly spoken languages in the United States other
6 than English, which shall include Mandarin, Can-
7 tonese, Japanese, and Korean.

8 (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
9 means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

10 (11) SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE.—The term “sig-
11 nificant resource” means, in the case of a Federal
12 agency, any material, digital or otherwise, prepared
13 by the Federal agency that contains information
14 critical for education, awareness, and participation
15 in public education campaigns, such as informational
16 and outreach materials.

17 **SEC. 3. TRANSLATION OF FEDERAL AGENCY MATERIALS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General and the
19 Secretary shall ensure that all significant resources for
20 services, activities, benefits, and programs of the Depart-
21 ment of Justice and the Department of Health and
22 Human Services, respectively, that are prepared for the
23 general public relating to gun violence prevention and fire-
24 arm safety are competently translated and provided in ac-
25 cessible formats in priority languages.

1 (b) SPECIFIC RESOURCES.—The significant re-
2 sources described in subsection (a) shall include—

3 (1) extreme risk protection orders and safe gun
4 storage materials; and

5 (2) significant resources prepared using
6 amounts appropriated under division B of the Bipar-
7 tisan Safer Communities Act (Public Law 117–159;
8 136 Stat. 1338) for Federal grant programs and
9 other activities carried out by the Attorney General
10 and the Secretary that were in effect as of the date
11 of enactment of that Act to support mental health
12 services, crisis response, school-based mental health,
13 and suicide prevention.

14 (c) COMMUNITY REVIEW.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of ensuring
16 that significant resources described in subsection (a)
17 are culturally competent and accessible by the in-
18 tended audience, the Attorney General and the Sec-
19 retary shall ensure all translated materials are re-
20 viewed by community-based organizations with dem-
21 onstrated relationships with speakers of a given lan-
22 guage prior to publishing.

23 (2) FUNDING.—The Attorney General and the
24 Secretary shall provide amounts appropriated to

1 carry out this Act to community-based organizations
2 to carry out paragraph (1).

3 **SEC. 4. PRIORITY GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall en-
5 sure that applications for grants for the creation and im-
6 plementation of extreme risk protection orders, State cri-
7 sis intervention court proceedings, and other gun violence
8 reduction efforts incorporate meaningful engagement with
9 limited English proficient populations by giving priority
10 to applications that demonstrate a targeted outreach plan.

11 (b) PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EF-
12 FORTS.—Section 501 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-
13 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10152) is
14 amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(I)(iv)—

16 (A) in subclause (III), by striking “and” at
17 the end;

18 (B) in subclause (IV), by striking the pe-
19 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(V) public outreach and edu-
22 cation efforts, which shall include—

23 “(aa) meaningful engage-
24 ment with community-based or-
25 ganizations directly serving lim-

1 ited English proficient popu-
2 lations (as defined in section 2 of
3 the Language Access to Gun Vio-
4 lence Prevention Strategies Act
5 of 2023); and

6 “(bb) translation of public
7 facing documents into any lan-
8 guage other than English spoken
9 by a limited English proficient
10 population that constitutes not
11 less than 3 percent or 500 indi-
12 viduals, whichever is less, of the
13 population served or encoun-
14 tered.”; and

15 (2) in subsection (h)—

16 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at
17 the end;

18 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking the pe-
19 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(5) measures that have been taken by each
22 grant recipient to comply with subsection
23 (a)(1)(I)(iv)(V).”.

24 (c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall

1 issue guidance related to the requirements set forth in
2 subsections (a)(1)(I)(iv)(V) and (h)(5) of section 501 of
3 title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act
4 of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10152), as added by subsection (b).

5 **SEC. 5. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GUN VIOLENCE PREVEN-**
6 **TION PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of increasing lan-
8 guage access to community-based gun violence prevention
9 strategies, the Attorney General, acting through the Di-
10 rector of the Office of Justice Programs, and in coordina-
11 tion with the Community-Based Violence Intervention and
12 Prevention Initiative of the Office of Justice Programs,
13 shall develop and implement a national public awareness
14 campaign to increase awareness of federally supported gun
15 violence prevention strategies, such as extreme risk protec-
16 tion orders, with a focus on outreach and engagement with
17 limited English proficient populations.

18 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The public awareness cam-
19 paign under this section shall include—

20 (1) the provision of in-language and culturally
21 appropriate messaging to disseminate scientific and
22 evidence-based information; and

23 (2) the dissemination of information on sub-
24 grants to community-based organizations educating
25 professionals and community stakeholders.

1 (c) COORDINATION.—The public awareness campaign
2 under this section shall be complementary to, and coordi-
3 nated with, any other Federal, State, Tribal, and local ef-
4 forts, as appropriate.

5 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Attorney General
6 shall submit a report to Congress detailing how funds ap-
7 propriated to carry out this section were used.

8 **SEC. 6. DEPARTMENT OF HEATH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
9 **GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION PUBLIC AWARE-**
10 **NESS CAMPAIGN.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of increasing lan-
12 guage access to gun violence prevention strategies, the
13 Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for
14 Disease Control and Prevention and in coordination with
15 the Director of the National Center for Injury Prevention
16 and Control, shall develop and implement a national public
17 education campaign to increase awareness of gun violence
18 prevention strategies and firearm safety programs sup-
19 ported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
20 such as safe gun storage practices, with a focus on out-
21 reach and engagement with limited English proficient pop-
22 ulations.

23 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The public awareness cam-
24 paign under this section shall include—

1 (1) the provision of in-language and culturally
2 appropriate messaging to disseminate scientific and
3 evidence-based information related to gun violence
4 prevention and firearm safety; and

5 (2) the dissemination of information on sub-
6 grants to community-based organizations educating
7 professionals and community stakeholders.

8 (c) COORDINATION.—The public awareness campaign
9 under this section shall be complementary to, and coordi-
10 nated with, any other Federal, State, Tribal, and local ef-
11 forts, as appropriate.

12 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
13 submit a report to Congress detailing how funds appro-
14 priated to carry out this section were used.

15 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
17 this Act such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year
18 2025.

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