

Union Calendar No. 519

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6033

[Report No. 118-621]

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a task force to improve access to health care information technology for non-English speakers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 24, 2023

Mrs. STEEL (for herself, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. CHU, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. LEE of Nevada, and Ms. SEWELL) introduced the following bill

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

JULY 30, 2024

Additional sponsors: Mr. MULLIN, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. CARAVEO, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. KILMER, Ms. BALINT, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. SOTO

JULY 30, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on October 25, 2023]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a task force to improve access to health care information technology for non-English speakers.

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 “Supporting Patient*
5 *Education And Knowledge Act of 2024” or the “SPEAK*
6 *Act of 2024”.*

7 **SEC. 2. GUIDANCE ON FURNISHING SERVICES VIA TELE-**
8 **HEALTH TO INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED**
9 **ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.**

10 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date*
11 *of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and*
12 *Human Services, in consultation with 1 or more entities*
13 *from each of the categories described in paragraphs (1)*
14 *through (7) of subsection (b), shall issue and disseminate,*
15 *or update and revise as applicable, guidance for the entities*
16 *described in such subsection on the following:*

17 *(1) Best practices on facilitating and integrating*
18 *use of interpreters during a telemedicine appoint-*
19 *ment.*

20 *(2) Best practices on providing accessible in-*
21 *structions on how to access telecommunications sys-*
22 *tems (as such term is used for purposes of section*
23 *1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.*
24 *1395m(m)) for individuals with limited English pro-*
25 *ficiency.*

1 (3) *Best practices on improving access to digital*
2 *patient portals for individuals with limited English*
3 *proficiency.*

4 (4) *Best practices on integrating the use of video*
5 *platforms that enable multi-person video calls fur-*
6 *nished via a telecommunications system for purposes*
7 *of providing interpretation during a telemedicine ap-*
8 *pointment for an individual with limited English*
9 *proficiency.*

10 (5) *Best practices for providing patient mate-*
11 *rials, communications, and instructions in multiple*
12 *languages, including text message appointment re-*
13 *minders and prescription information.*

14 (b) *ENTITIES DESCRIBED.*—*For purposes of subsection*
15 *(a), an entity described in this subsection is an entity in*
16 *1 or more of the following categories:*

17 (1) *Health information technology service pro-*
18 *viders, including—*

19 (A) *electronic medical record companies;*

20 (B) *remote patient monitoring companies;*

21 *and*

22 (C) *telehealth or mobile health vendors and*
23 *companies.*

24 (2) *Health care providers, including—*

25 (A) *physicians; and*

1 *(B) hospitals.*

2 *(3) Health insurers.*

3 *(4) Language service companies.*

4 *(5) Interpreter or translator professional associa-*
5 *tions.*

6 *(6) Health and language services quality certifi-*
7 *cation organizations.*

8 *(7) Patient and consumer advocates, including*
9 *such advocates that work with individuals with lim-*
10 *ited English proficiency.*

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