

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2565

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2023

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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:

8 (1) **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.**—The
9 term “community-based organization” means a
10 neighborhood or community-based organization, as

1 that term is defined in section 901 of title I of the
2 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
3 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251).

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

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

15 (B) Having a firearm temporarily removed
16 or requiring the temporary surrender of a fire-
17 arm from a named individual.

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

21 (4) GUN VIOLENCE.—The term “gun violence”
22 includes mass shooting incidents, other firearm
23 homicides or assaults, firearm suicides or self-harm,
24 unintentional firearm deaths and injuries, and fire-
25 arm-related crime.

1 (5) GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGY.—

2 The term “Gun Violence Prevention Strategy”
3 means programs, policies, or practices that have the
4 potential to reduce firearm-related violence, injuries,
5 death, or crime within populations or settings experi-
6 encing elevated risk.

7 (6) INDIVIDUAL WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PRO-

8 FICIENCY.—The term “individual with limited
9 English proficiency” means an individual who does
10 not speak English as the individual’s primary lan-
11 guage and has a limited ability to read, write, speak,
12 or understand English.

13 (7) LANGUAGE ACCESS.—The term “language

14 access” means the provision of culturally competent
15 and effective language services to an individual with
16 limited English proficiency designed to enhance that
17 individual’s access to, understanding of, or benefit
18 from the services, activities, programs, or benefits
19 provided by a Federal agency.

20 (8) LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT POPU-

21 LATION.—The term “limited English proficient popu-
22 lation” means the sum of all individuals with lim-
23 ited English proficiency.

24 (9) PRIORITY LANGUAGES.—The term “priority

25 languages” means, at a minimum, the 10 most com-

1 monly spoken languages in the United States other
 2 than English, which shall include Mandarin, Can-
 3 tonese, Japanese, and Korean.

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

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

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

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

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

24 (1) extreme risk protection orders and safe gun
 25 storage materials; and

1 (2) significant resources prepared using
2 amounts appropriated under division B of the Bipar-
3 tisan Safer Communities Act (Public Law 117–159;
4 136 Stat. 1338) for Federal grant programs and
5 other activities carried out by the Attorney General
6 and the Secretary that were in effect as of the date
7 of enactment of that Act to support mental health
8 services, crisis response, school-based mental health,
9 and suicide prevention.

10 (c) COMMUNITY REVIEW.—

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

19 (2) FUNDING.—The Attorney General and the
20 Secretary shall provide amounts appropriated to
21 carry out this Act to community-based organizations
22 to carry out paragraph (1).

23 **SEC. 4. PRIORITY GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall en-
25 sure that applications for grants for the creation and im-

1 plementation of extreme risk protection orders, State cri-
2 sis intervention court proceedings, and other gun violence
3 reduction efforts incorporate meaningful engagement with
4 limited English proficient populations by giving priority
5 to applications that demonstrate a targeted outreach plan.

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

10 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(I)(iv)—

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

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

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

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

18 “(aa) meaningful engage-
19 ment with community-based or-
20 ganizations directly serving lim-
21 ited English proficient popu-
22 lations (as defined in section 2 of
23 the Language Access to Gun Vio-
24 lence Prevention Strategies Act
25 of 2023); and

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

10 (2) in subsection (h)—

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

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

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

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

19 (c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall
21 issue guidance related to the requirements set forth in
22 subsections (a)(1)(I)(iv)(V) and (h)(5) of section 501 of
23 title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act
24 of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10152), as added by subsection (b).

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

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

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

16 (1) the provision of in-language and culturally
17 appropriate messaging to disseminate scientific and
18 evidence-based information; and

19 (2) the dissemination of information on sub-
20 grants to community-based organizations educating
21 professionals and community stakeholders.

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

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

4 **SEC. 6. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
5 **GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION PUBLIC AWARE-**
6 **NESS CAMPAIGN.**

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

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

21 (1) the provision of in-language and culturally
22 appropriate messaging to disseminate scientific and
23 evidence-based information related to gun violence
24 prevention and firearm safety; and

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

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

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

11 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
13 this Act such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year
14 2025.

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