

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2019

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 445-G
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

We strongly believe that all of our constituents should have access to accurate, accessible, and comprehensive information about Medicare. To that end, we urge the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to increase the number of languages used in educational and enrollment materials available to Medicare-eligible individuals.

The number of Americans speaking a language other than English at home continues to increase, growing from roughly 23 million in 1980 to almost 60 million in 2010, a 158% increase, according to American Community Survey data. The U.S. Census also estimates that as recently as 2017, over 10 million individuals over age 60 speak a language other than English at home, with almost 6 million speaking English less than “very well.” In total, nearly 350 languages are spoken in U.S. homes.

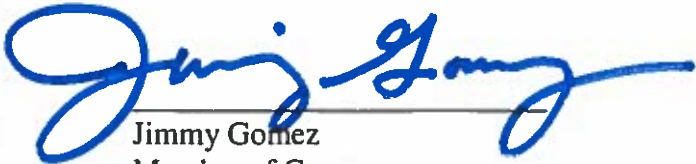
CMS should ensure that all Medicare-eligible individuals and beneficiaries have access to unbiased and complete information on their Medicare options, in order to support a more seamless and informed decision-making and enrollment process. As our linguistic diversity increases, Medicare should therefore improve the accessibility of its educational and enrollment materials for all beneficiaries through translation of key materials into additional languages, beyond English and Spanish.

While CMS is to be lauded for making Medicare documents and materials available in both English and Spanish, CMS should specifically consider translating commonly used Medicare documents and materials into additional languages, including the “Medicare and You” handbook, Medicare.gov and Plan Finder websites, and the “Understanding Medicare Advantage Plans” booklet. We encourage CMS to begin the implementation of a deliberate process for additional language translation of educational and outreach materials, as feasible and appropriate.

With more than 10,000 individuals becoming eligible for Medicare every day, we appreciate your commitment to ensuring that CMS materials and information are accessible to all Medicare beneficiaries. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Sincerely,



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



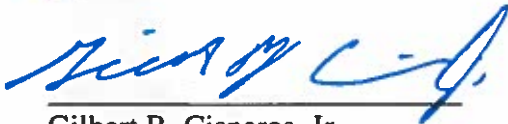
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



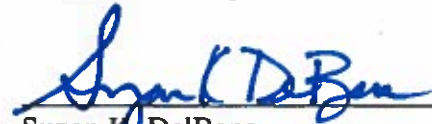
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



TJ Cox
Member of Congress



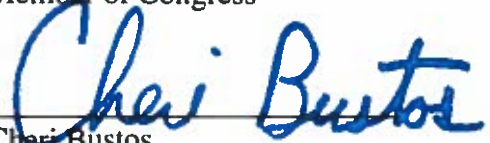
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



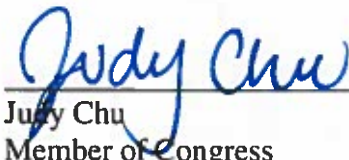
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Al Green

Al Green
Member of Congress

Katie Hill

Katie Hill
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

John B. Larson

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

John Lewis

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Andy Kim

Andy Kim
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Grace Meng

Grace Meng
Member of Congress



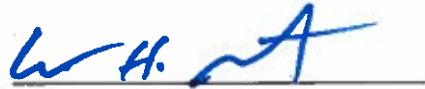
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Eleanor H. Norton
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



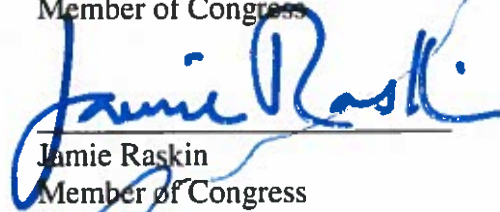
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress




Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress





Donna Shalala
Member of Congress

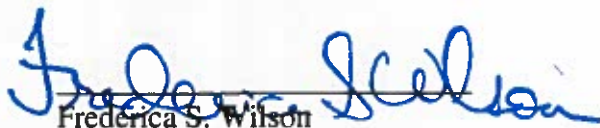

Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress


Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress


Tom Suozzi
Member of Congress


Mark Takano
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress


Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress


Susan Wild
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress