

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1829

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess and submit to Congress a report on the ability of the Department of Homeland Security to convey information to, collect information from, and serve individuals with limited English proficiency.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2015

Mrs. TORRES (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess and submit to Congress a report on the ability of the Department of Homeland Security to convey information to, collect information from, and serve individuals with limited English proficiency.

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 “DHS Communication
5 Enhancement Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSESSING AND DEVELOPING A PLAN TO IMPROVE**
2 **DHS COMMUNICATION WITH AND SERVICE**
3 **OF INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH**
4 **PROFICIENCY.**

5 (a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-
7 land Security, acting through the Under Secretary for
8 Management, shall complete an assessment of the ability
9 of the Department of Homeland Security to convey infor-
10 mation to, collect information from, and serve individuals
11 with limited English proficiency. With respect to each
12 component in the Department, the assessment shall—

13 (1) identify the languages spoken fluently and
14 read by individuals with limited English proficiency
15 commonly encountered by personnel of the compo-
16 nent;

17 (2) review the public materials of the compo-
18 nent to assess the extent to which the materials are
19 available in the languages identified under para-
20 graph (1); and

21 (3) assess the ability of personnel of the compo-
22 nent to communicate with and serve individuals with
23 limited English proficiency.

24 (b) REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later
25 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
26 the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on

1 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and
2 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
3 Affairs of the Senate concerning the assessment under
4 subsection (a). Such report shall include—

5 (1) a summary of the findings of such assess-
6 ment for each component of the Department; and

7 (2) a plan, including a timeline for implementa-
8 tion, developed in consultation with the head of each
9 component, to improve the ability of each component
10 to convey information to, collect information from,
11 and serve individuals with limited English pro-
12 ficiency.

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