

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 8, 2020

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
United States Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Carranza:

We write to urge the Small Business Administration (SBA) to expedite the implementation of Section 1111 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This section authorizes \$25 million for SBA to provide resources and services in the 10 most commonly spoken languages, other than English, including Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, and Korean.

SBA currently offers a Spanish-language website, but has not ensured adequate in-language services for the estimated 26.5 million Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals living in the United States, including the nearly 11.4 million who speak languages other than Spanish.¹ These in-language resources are vital to ensure LEP individuals have access to SBA loans and other COVID-19 relief programs and must be made available immediately.

We would like to reiterate, as stated in our March 13, 2020 letter, Asian Americans own approximately two million businesses in the United States that contribute over \$700 billion in annual revenue and employ nearly 4.5 million workers. Of these firms, more than 173,000 conduct business in languages other than English, including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. These businesses support a vibrant immigrant community and represent the very best of the American Dream, and it is vital that they have information about the SBA programs.

The SBA and the Treasury Department have struggled to prepare lenders and borrowers for the implementation of Paycheck Protection Program. Given the release of the interim final rule, which states the Paycheck Protection Program is a “first-come, first-serve program” and the recent reports that lenders anticipate the program expending its lending authority,² there is a sense of urgency emerging amongst small business owners that if SBA cannot quickly develop services and materials in the languages required by the CARES Act, thousands of business owners that conduct business in foreign languages, or have limited English proficiency, will be left behind. These small businesses must be provided with equal access to the promised

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey

² <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/01/small-businesses-grapple-with-paycheck-protection-program-in-stimulus.html>

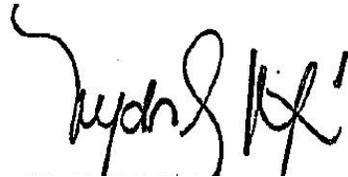
government assistance meant to help them survive the COVID-19 outbreak and associated economic hardships.

We strongly urge you to expedite the implementation of the in-language services and resources and request a response detailing how SBA plans to utilize the \$25 million appropriated through the CARES Act to meet the needs of LEP business owners. The Committee requests that the SBA respond to this letter no later than April 13, 2020.

Sincerely,



Judy Chu
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Investigations,
Oversight and Regulations
Committee on Small Business
U.S. House of Representatives



Nydia M. Velázquez
Chairwoman
Committee on Small Business
U.S. House of Representatives

/s/

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

/s/

TJ Cox
Member of Congress

/s/

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

/s/

Al Green
Member of Congress

/s/

Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

/s/

Stephanie N. Murphy
Member of Congress

/s/

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

/s/

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

/s/

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

/s/
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

/s/
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

/s/
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

/s/
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

/s/
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

/s/
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

/s/
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

/s/
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

/s/
Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

/s/
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

/s/
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/
Dina Titus
Member of Congress

/s/
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

/s/
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

/s/
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

/s/
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

/s/
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

/s/
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

/s/
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

/s/
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

/s/
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

/s/
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Ed Case
Member of Congress

/s/
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

/s/
Mark Takano
Member of Congress

/s/
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

/s/
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

/s/
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

/s/
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

/s/
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

/s/
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

/s/
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

/s/
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

/s/
Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

/s/
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

/s/
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

/s/
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

/s/
John B. Larson
Member of Congress

/s/
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

/s/
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Andy Levin
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Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

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Anna G. Eshoo
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Albio Sires
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Steve Cohen
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Katie Porter
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Susie Lee
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Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

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Greg Stanton
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Brad Sherman
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Ben Ray Luján
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

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Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

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Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

/s/
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress