

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2019

The Honorable Charles Rettig
Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

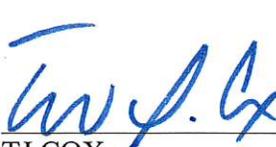
We are writing to seek information about the translation and interpretation services that the Internal Revenue Service provides for taxpayers with limited English proficiency. We are aware that this is not the case for the notice issued by the IRS under the "B" back-up withholding program ("B" Notice), which is only available in English. "Vital documents" should be available in multiple languages. People with limited English proficiency may find language services difficult to obtain and may have limited broadband or lack of access to the IRS website. Additionally, the "B Notice" letter is not on the IRS website, making it all the more important to provide the necessary translations for written correspondence.

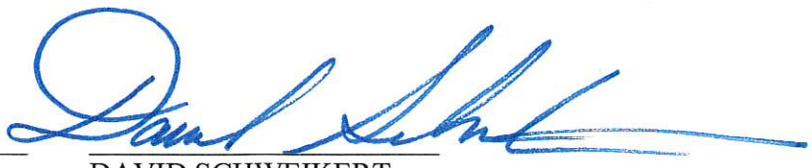
We believe the failure to translate many important tax forms and letters creates a barrier for taxpayers who have limited English proficiency and want to understand and comply with the tax laws. Without providing these letters in the necessary language, we believe the IRS puts an undue burden on individuals to decipher what the letter is asking of them. We therefore request responses to the following questions relating to the IRS' policy on language accessibility for written and oral communication:

1. As of January 2019, which forms, letters, and notices from the IRS are translated and in which languages are these offered?
2. What is the current process at the IRS for translating written correspondence or providing translation services for taxpayers with limited English proficiency?
3. According to the IRS Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, the IRS and IRS funded partners translate "certain vital documents into frequently encountered languages". Are the most commonly filed tax forms, such as the Form 1040, and the "B" Notice considered vital documents? If not, why does it not qualify as such?

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us or have your staff contact Nandini Narayan, nandini.narayan@mail.house.gov . We look forward to your response by March 13th, 2020 and continued efforts to improve services to taxpayers with limited English proficiency.

Sincerely,


TJ COX
Member of Congress


DAVID SCHWEIKERT
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa
J. LUIS CORREA
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragan
NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress

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DONALD S. BEYER, JR.
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
RUBEN GALLEGO
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos
CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland
DEB HAALAND
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Donna E. Shalala
DONNA E. SHALALA
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Al Lawson
AL LAWSON
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Veronica Escobar
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Pramila Jayapal
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Lucy McBeth
LUCY MCBATH
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
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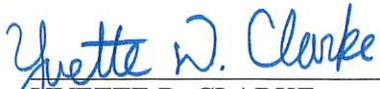
Jimmy Gomez
JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

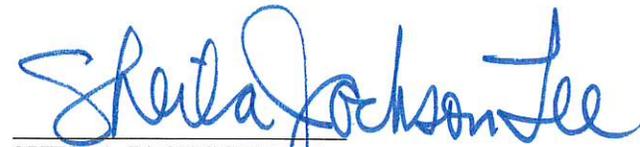
Susan Wild
SUSAN WILD
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia
SYLVIA R. GARCIA
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
RASHIDA TLAIB
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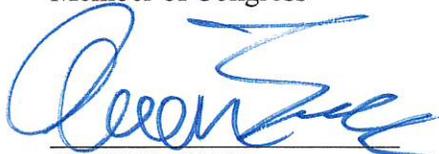

DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress

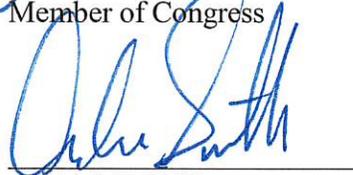

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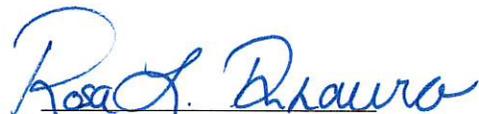

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BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
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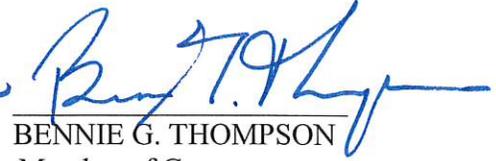
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