

## Committee Print

(SHOWING THE TEXT OF H.R. 6033 AS FAVORABLY FORWARDED BY THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON MAY 16, 2024)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6033

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a task force to improve access to health care information technology for non-English speakers.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 24, 2023

Mrs. STEEL (for herself, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. CHU, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. LEE of Nevada, and Ms. SEWELL) introduced the following bill

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a task force to improve access to health care information technology for non-English speakers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Patient  
3 Education And Knowledge Act of 2024” or the “SPEAK  
4 Act of 2024”.

5 **SEC. 2. GUIDANCE ON FURNISHING SERVICES VIA TELE-**  
6 **HEALTH TO INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED**  
7 **ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
9 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of  
10 Health and Human Services, in consultation with 1 or  
11 more entities from each of the categories described in  
12 paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (b), shall issue  
13 and disseminate, or update and revise as applicable, guid-  
14 ance for the entities described in such subsection on the  
15 following:

16 (1) Best practices on facilitating and inte-  
17 grating use of interpreters during a telemedicine ap-  
18 pointment.

19 (2) Best practices on providing accessible in-  
20 structions on how to access telecommunications sys-  
21 tems (as such term is used for purposes of section  
22 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
23 1395m(m)) for individuals with limited English pro-  
24 ficiency.

1           (3) Best practices on improving access to dig-  
2           ital patient portals for individuals with limited  
3           English proficiency.

4           (4) Best practices on integrating the use of  
5           video platforms that enable multi-person video calls  
6           furnished via a telecommunications system for pur-  
7           poses of providing interpretation during a telemedi-  
8           cine appointment for an individual with limited  
9           English proficiency.

10          (5) Best practices for providing patient mate-  
11          rials, communications, and instructions in multiple  
12          languages, including text message appointment re-  
13          minders and prescription information.

14          (b) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—For purposes of sub-  
15          section (a), an entity described in this subsection is an  
16          entity in 1 or more of the following categories:

17               (1) Health information technology service pro-  
18               viders, including—

19                       (A) electronic medical record companies;

20                       (B) remote patient monitoring companies;

21                       and

22                       (C) telehealth or mobile health vendors and  
23                       companies.

24               (2) Health care providers, including—

25                       (A) physicians; and

1 (B) hospitals.

2 (3) Health insurers.

3 (4) Language service companies.

4 (5) Interpreter or translator professional asso-  
5 ciations.

6 (6) Health and language services quality certifi-  
7 cation organizations.

8 (7) Patient and consumer advocates, including  
9 such advocates that work with individuals with lim-  
10 ited English proficiency.