

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to ask for your support of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement of credentialed medical interpreters to ensure that limited English proficient (LEP) people have equitable access to quality health care through credentialed medical interpreting services.

According to an Institute for Healthcare Advancement study, \$73 Billion is spent annually in unnecessary health care expenses due to the inability of patients to understand what medical providers are communicating. Yet, the provision of language services in health care is still for the most part an unfunded mandate. Providing Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement of credentialed medical interpreters will reduce health care costs and improve quality of care by providing effective, safe communication between providers and patients, preventing adverse events such as medical errors and reducing Medicare and Medicaid expenditures on costly ER visits, unnecessary medical tests and procedures.

I understand that Congress is unlikely to act on further health care reform in the near future. In the interim, I ask that you consider a Medicare and Medicaid demonstration project to illustrate that reimbursement of credentialed medical interpreters will indeed reduce health care costs while improving the health and safety of our limited English proficient Medicare and Medicaid population.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME HERE](#)