

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Christopher Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray:

Thank you for appearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on August 4, 2022. Following up on our discussion, I write to encourage the FBI to provide multilingual resources and ensure that all communities, including Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals, have access to the critical information and guidance that FBI disseminates. As I discussed in the hearing, providing multilingual information and services is key to ensuring the health and safety of communities across Georgia and the nation for whom English is not a first language.

There are more than 25 million people living in the United States who are LEP, meaning they are not fluent in, or have difficulty communicating in, English.<sup>1</sup> In your testimony, you stated that in recent years, the FBI has intensified its multilingual outreach, recognizing that communities across America may not receive vital public safety information if that information is presented only in English. You cited the New York field office's outreach to the AAPI community as an example of proactive language access efforts. However, as you testified, there is more that the FBI can do to ensure all communities can access vital public safety information.

For example, as I raised in our discussion, the Atlanta field office circulated a warning to Georgia parents and children about the growing dangers of online sextortion that appeared only in English. This left communities for whom English is not a native language without key information about the risks to their children online. While the FBI website contains a page, "FBI en Español," directed at Spanish-speaking users, that page does not appear to have been updated since October 2020. Maintaining up-to-date resources and information in Spanish and other languages should be a priority.

Georgia is home to diverse language communities, from Korean to Hindi to Spanish and more, and they all deserve access to the FBI's resources. I am committed to working with you to ensure that all Georgians, and all Americans, are able to access the critical information and guidance that the FBI provides. To that end, I would like to know:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/language/US>

- What programs or initiatives already exist within the FBI to offer multilingual print and web materials and ensure that information accessible to LEP individuals?
- What concrete steps does the FBI plan to take to expand the accessibility of its information and guidance to ensure accessibility for LEP individuals?
- What support can Congress provide to ensure that field offices include local languages in all web and print resources?

Augmenting the FBI's existing language access efforts is essential in ensuring that all communities across Georgia and throughout the nation are protected by the FBI's important work. As I stated during last month's hearing, I look forward to the Atlanta field office becoming a leader in the Bureau's language access future.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sara Schaumburg, General Counsel in my office, at (202) 228-6199 or [Sara\\_Schaumburg@ossoff.senate.gov](mailto:Sara_Schaumburg@ossoff.senate.gov). Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Ossoff", written in a cursive style.

Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator