



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 5, 2025**

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## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSES HOUSE BILL 25-1153 TO IMPROVE LANGUAGE ACCESS IN COLORADO**

### **ADVOCATES CELEBRATE BIPARTISAN APPROVAL OF BILL TO ASSESS LANGUAGE ACCESS PRACTICES AT STATE AGENCIES**

**Denver, CO**—On Friday the Colorado Senate approved [House Bill 25-1153 - Statewide Government Language Access Assessment](#) in a bipartisan vote, the final step in the legislative process readying the bill for Gov. Polis' signature. Advocates applaud the leadership of prime sponsors Rep. Elizabeth Velasco (D 57), Rep. Junie Joseph (D 10), and Sen. Iman Jodeh (D 29) in ushering through this [important legislation](#) that will improve language access in Colorado by requiring an assessment of language access practices at state agencies and a corresponding report to be issued by next year with findings and recommendations for implementing a statewide language access policy.

Over [900,000 Coloradans speak a language other than English at home](#), including [parents of more than 1 in 4 children ages 0-5](#) and a growing number of at least 300,000 people who need to use a language other than English to effectively communicate. While [state agencies have been working on language access](#), these efforts vary in scope and quality. With passage of HB25-1153, Colorado builds on existing local advocacy and aligns with over a third of other states where local or state language access initiatives are aimed at upholding the civil rights of those with limited English proficiency who, without the support of language access services such as interpretation or translation, face exclusion from vital public services.

Passage of House Bill 25-1153 was championed by members and allies of the Colorado Language Access Coalition ([CLAC](#)) with a group of [nearly two dozen bill endorsers](#) led by [Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning](#) and the [Colorado Center on Law and Policy](#) (CCLP).

“Linguistically diverse Coloradans, including many active English learners, want to communicate effectively about their rights, responsibilities, and the critical public services that matter to their families,” said Khatira Amn, Senior Policy Advocate for Early Childhood at Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, who came to Colorado fleeing violence in her home country while fluent in Pashto and several other languages but still acquiring English. “State agencies have said they want more guidance and coordination to meet language access needs, and HB25-1153 represents a pivotal path forward.”

“Coloradans all deserve to successfully navigate our public resources and services,” added Morgan Turner, Community Engagement Director at CCLP and a member of CLAC’s Steering Committee. “HB25-1153 is a crucial step toward better serving linguistically diverse Coloradans and streamlining cross-agency language efforts to maximize the impact of state programs that are intended to help us all thrive.”

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[Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning](#) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to build a thriving intercultural community through learning, language access, and advocacy. Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

[Colorado Center on Law and Policy](#) is an antipoverty organization advancing the rights of every Coloradan. CCLP is dedicated to combating poverty and fostering economic equity in Colorado. We focus on systems-level change, supporting long-term, sustainable upward mobility for our communities, beyond meeting basic needs.