



## Language Access to Gun Violence Prevention Strategies Act of 2023

### BACKGROUND

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, signed into law on June 25, 2022, provided funding for states and localities to develop and implement “red flag laws” – which allow family members to petition for the temporary removal of guns from a loved one’s home when someone is at significant risk for self-harm or harming others. Red flag laws have [deterred at least 58 potential mass shootings](#) and other types of gun violence in California alone, and nearly all states have now applied for this grant funding.

### THERE’S MORE WORK TO BE DONE

Unfortunately, there are still gaps in ensuring ALL communities are made aware of how they can participate in gun safety actions. After the horrific mass shooting in Monterey Park, authorities learned that there were individuals in the gunman’s life who knew that he was experiencing a life crisis and isolating himself while stockpiling guns and ammunition. Unfortunately, due to lack of public education coupled with linguistic and cultural barriers, none of these individuals were aware that this was something that could have been reported to the police.

Outreach to communities on proven prevention strategies needs to be done in multiple languages, including Mandarin, Cantonese, and Vietnamese, so that we can all help in preventing future gun violence deaths. In addition, we know that there are proven firearm safety strategies such as safe gun storage practices that are promoted to communities through the CDC. Unfortunately, these strategies are also leaving out the same limited English proficient (LEP) communities.

**The Language Access to Gun Violence Prevention Strategies Act of 2023 would fill these gaps by ensuring robust in-language materials, outreach to LEP communities, and culturally competent education to community providers and law enforcement. It would do so by:**

- Providing for a competent, community reviewed, translations of all public facing resources provided by the Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Health and Human Services (HHS) related to gun violence prevention strategies.
- Directing the Attorney General to ensure federal grant applications for funds related to the creation and implementation of extreme risk protection orders and other prevention efforts incorporate meaningful engagement with communities with high numbers of individuals with LEP.
- Directing the Attorney General and Secretary of HHS to develop and implement a national public awareness campaign for federally supported gun violence prevention strategies and firearm ownership safety with a focus on outreach and engagement with LEP communities.

The Language Access to Gun Violence Prevention Strategies Act of 2023 has been endorsed by March For Our Lives, Newtown Action Alliance, National Immigration Law Center, Everytown for Gun Safety.