

JIM COSTA

16TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
MEMBER

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Alexander Azar
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C., 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

As our nation confronts a crisis of historic proportions, I write to encourage the Department of Health and Human Services to remember the great diversity of our country and the unique needs of our communities. While we continue to work together to confront the challenges posed by COVID-19, I request that the Department ensure that factual, informative content is created in a wide range of languages so it can be easily accessed and understood by all Americans.

Specifically, my district is home to an incredibly diverse community and many first-generation Americans who face the impact of COVID-19 on a daily basis. Yet there is a lack of reliable, accessible information in several widely spoken languages in our community, including Hmong and Punjabi. This creates a troubling information gap that puts the health of my constituents at risk. In addition, it creates a climate where rumor and misinformation can gain traction, making our collective fight against the virus more difficult.

As the Department continues its efforts to educate the public about COVID-19 and the measures we all must take to confront it, I urgently request that informational materials be produced in the wide range of languages spoken in the many communities across our diverse country.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA
Member of Congress