

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 29, 2023

The Honorable David Joyce  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Joyce and Ranking Member Cuellar:

Last month, I joined dozens of my congressional colleagues in both chambers in sending a letter to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chair Jessica Rosenworcel urging her to work towards an expansion of the languages that wireless carriers support for Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) in order to help close gaps in critical information delivery for non-English and non-Spanish speaking communities. For our AAPI communities, the lack of access to alerts in a language they can understand has led to missed evacuations, injuries, and loss of life. In their response letter, the FCC noted that a major barrier to the inclusion of AAPI languages in WEAs is that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System currently does not support alerts that use non-Roman characters. To address this serious issue, I request the following language be included in the report accompanying the FY 24 bill:

*Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Language Access.*—The Committee directs FEMA and the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Management Office to expand language access for IPAWS and conduct tests for sending out national alerts in languages other than English and Spanish. Specifically, IPAWS should develop language access capabilities for ideographic languages that use non-Roman characters. Within 180 days of the enactment of this Act, the Committee directs FEMA to submit a report on the resources necessary to support Wireless Emergency Alerts issued using non-Roman characters. The report should outline the data and technological capacity upgrades that would be necessary as well as the systems and technologies that other localities or countries have adopted to successfully issue emergency alerts to multilingual residents using ideographic languages.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress