

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS JULIA MEJIA, BENJAMIN J. WEBER, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY, SANTANA, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H.3084, “AN ACT RELATIVE TO LANGUAGE ACCESS AND INCLUSION”

WHEREAS, Access to government services should not depend on the language you speak or your ability to hear, yet too many Massachusetts residents still face barriers when trying to navigate state systems due to language or communication differences; *and*

WHEREAS, Language justice is essential for building trust, participation, and equity in our public institutions. No one should be excluded from vital information or services simply because English is not their first language, or because they are deaf or hard of hearing; *and*

WHEREAS, April is recognized as both Language Access Month and National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month—a time to celebrate the richness of our linguistic diversity and to renew our commitment to making public services accessible to all; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has taken proactive steps toward language inclusion, establishing the Office of Language and Communication Access by ordinance in 2016 (originally created by executive order in 2008), and expanding its mandate in 2021 to ensure broader access for residents with limited English proficiency and communication disabilities; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston’s Office of Language Access remains committed to creating a city where every resident—regardless of language background—feels welcome, informed, and empowered to engage in civic life; *and*

WHEREAS, At the state level, H. 3084, “An Act relative to Language Access and Inclusion,” sponsored by Representatives Adrian Madaro and Carlos González, would establish clear and enforceable standards requiring state agencies to provide oral interpretation, translated materials, and culturally competent communication for individuals with limited English proficiency and those who are deaf or hard of hearing; *and*

WHEREAS, It is imperative that when our constituents interface with state agencies that they are able to speak to someone in their preferred language; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council goes on record in support of H. 3084, “An Act relative to Language Access and Inclusion,” and urges the State Legislature to act on this piece of legislation so that it can be signed into law.

Filed on: April 9, 2025