



June 10th, 2024

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC, 20554

Re: PS Docket Nos. 15-91 and 15-94; Supporting Additional Languages for Multilingual Wireless Emergency Alerts

Dear FCC,

My name is Hannah Vlach and I am the founder and executive director of a refugee-serving agency in Omaha, Nebraska called *Restoring Dignity*. We serve refugees who represent 32 ethnic groups and speak a core of 14 languages. We have been involved in emergency language alerts for our city since 2020, when COVID-19 began spreading. Since then, we have worked with our local health department to create an *Emergency Language Alert Network*, a coalition of refugee and immigrant community leaders who receive local emergency alerts and pass the information along to their communities, in the language they speak. We had to do this, due to the current wireless emergency alerts not being translated.

The work the FCC is doing to expand the current Wireless Emergency Alerts to include more languages is critical.

We would suggest that you **add the following core languages**, as these are languages that are shared and spoken by many ethnic groups across America:

- **Burmese** (spoken by over 322,000 refugees who have fled from Burma/Myanmar and live in the USA)
- **Dari/Farsi** (spoken by many Afghan, Pakistanis and Iranian parolees/refugees in the USA; current number unknown; worldwide number is 9.6 million; with the huge influx of Afghan parolees, the number is most likely in the tens of thousands in the USA)

- **Karen** (spoken by over 75,000 Karen refugees from Burma/Myanmar who are living in the USA)
- **Kiswahili/Swahili** (spoken by many ethnic groups in central Africa, and approximately 90,000 people in the USA)
- **Nepali** (spoken by over 400,000 refugees from Nepal and Bhutan living in the USA)
- **Pashto** (spoken by many Afghan parolees, recent numbers much higher than what the current census data shows; over 40 million people speak Pashto in the world)
- **Q'anjob'al** (Mayan language spoken by at least 77,000 people (per 2005 study) in the USA)
- **Somali** (spoken by over 150,000 people from Somalia who are living in the USA)

Please let us know if you have any questions. We are happy to assist with the expansion of languages for the Wireless Emergency Alerts in any way we can.

This is an area of passion for us and we cannot wait to see the day when Wireless Emergency Alerts are available in a wide array of languages.

Thank you for your work!

Sincerely,

Hannah Vlach

Hannah Vlach

Founder & Executive Director

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