

# PUBLIC COMMENT

Submitted to: The Office of Equity Task Force

Submitted by: Samuel Cooke

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**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:53 AM

**To:** DOH WSBOH Health Disparities Council <healthequity@sboh.wa.gov>

**Subject:** Public Comment for April 30 Equity Office Task Force public meeting

Good morning,

As we see covid-19 devastating nursing homes and adult care facilities around the country, I worry that part of the problem may be a lack of multilingual access to information.

As this crisis unfolded, it seemed to me that our state health administrations released information in English right away, but translations lagged for days or weeks. Now that we understand the importance of early action to curb exponential infections, it's clear that multilingual access to emergency information cannot be an afterthought, and must be prioritized.

Translation is expensive and time consuming, but if we are really going to advance health equity, it must become a top tier priority.

Knowledge is power.

Thank you,

**Samuel Cooke**

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