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**OMB Releases Benefit-Cost Report of Executive Order on Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency**

**WASHINGTON** – The Office of Management and Budget today released its report on the total benefits and costs of implementing Executive Order 13166 (Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, or LEP). OMB’s Office of Information and Regulatory Analysis (OIRA) conducted the analysis, which was required by the FY 2002 Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act.

Among other things, the report cites the need for federal standards to be clear and uniform, notes that there are significant benefits to the LEP population from language-assistance services, and recommends that emphasis be placed on providing services to Spanish-speaking individuals, who comprise the vast majority of the LEP population. The report will be located on OMB’s Website at <http://www.omb.gov/inforeg/regpol.html>, as soon as Friday, March 15th. Reporters may have an electronic version sent to them today by contacting the OMB press office at (202) 395-7254.

“The Administration has emphasized the importance of ensuring that LEP individuals receive appropriate language assistance services and has commenced an effort to implement the Executive Order’s provisions. In order to accomplish that goal in an efficient and effective manner, the federal government should create clear and uniform standards defining how federal programs and recipients of federal funds may comply with the Order,” OMB states in the report.

The report notes that benefits of language-assistance services for particular LEP individuals can be significant: “Improved access to a wide variety of services – ranging from the delivery of health care and access to food stamps to motor vehicle licensing and law enforcement – can substantially improve the health and quality of life of many LEP individuals and their families. Moreover, language-assistance services may increase the efficiency of distribution of government services to LEP individuals and may measurably increase the effectiveness of public health and safety programs.”

**Other Highlights:**

- *Cost estimate:* While it is very difficult to accurately estimate the complete cost of providing language-assistance services beyond those currently offered, the report suggests that the annual aggregate costs should be less than \$2 billion and could be less than \$1 billion.
- *Case Studies:* The report featured four case studies of sectors where language-assistance services are currently being provided in some fashion -- transportation, welfare, immigration, and health care:
- *Efficiency:* The report notes two primary ways in which EO 13166 could be implemented most efficiently: a) creating uniformity of federal programs and b) stimulating increased and more efficient supply of telephonic interpretation services.

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