



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

OCT 3 2001

Mr. Jim Boulet, Jr.
Executive Director
English First
8001 Forbes Place
Suite 102
Springfield, Virginia 22151

Dear Mr. Boulet:

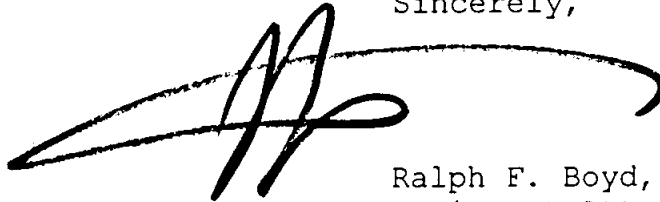
This is in response to your letter to the Attorney General dated September 4, 2001, regarding the status of Executive Order 13166, and the guidance issued by the Department of Justice related to that Order. Thank you for your letter and for sharing your opinions on the Executive Order.

Executive Order 13166 is meant to ensure that reasonable steps are taken to provide meaningful access for people who, because of limited English proficiency, cannot access government and government-funded programs and activities in English. Specifically, the Order requires that federal agencies take reasonable steps to make their programs meaningfully accessible to limited English proficient people who are eligible to be served or who are directly affected by federally-conducted programs or activities. The Order also requires agencies to clarify for their recipients their longstanding obligations to provide such access to beneficiaries under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, et seq.

The Administration does not plan to repeal Executive Order 13166. The Department of Justice is reviewing the guidance that it previously issued on the Executive Order and will provide further information shortly on this matter.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact the Department if we can be of assistance in other matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a long horizontal flourish that extends to the right and then curves back down.

Ralph F. Boyd, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division