

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Kate Sanchez, Vice Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*RE: AB 265 (Caloza) - Addressing a critical gap in disaster recovery assistance for small businesses and nonprofit organizations*

Dear Chair Wicks and Vice Chair Sanchez,

As a representative of the more than four million small businesses in California, Small Business Majority is pleased to support AB 265, the California Small Business Recovery Fund Act. This legislation addresses a critical gap in disaster recovery assistance for small businesses and nonprofit organizations that are disproportionately affected by severe weather events and other declared states of emergency.

Small Business Majority is a small business organization with offices across California that empowers diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. We engage our network of more than 85,000 small businesses and 1,500 business and community organizations to deliver resources to entrepreneurs and advocate for public policy solutions that promote inclusive small business growth.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, employing nearly half of the state's workforce. However, many of these businesses, particularly those owned BIPOC entrepreneurs and members of other under-resourced communities, face significant barriers to accessing timely financial assistance after disasters. AB 265's establishment of a \$100 million state-funded program will provide much-needed resources to ensure small businesses can recover, rebuild and invest in resilient infrastructure.

The key provisions of AB 265, including allocating 90% of the fund to competitive grants, prioritizing resilience-focused projects and supporting technical assistance for underserved populations, demonstrate a thoughtful approach to fostering economic recovery and long-term sustainability. What's more, [our polling](#) shows that small businesses are strongly supportive of government programs that target services to small business owners who face systemic challenges in accessing capital.

We believe AB 265 is a crucial step toward creating a more equitable and robust recovery framework for California's small businesses. By supporting this legislation, we can help safeguard jobs, strengthen local economies and build community resilience for the future. We are proud to stand with you in support of AB 265.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to California's small businesses. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Bianca Blomquist, California Director  
Small Business Majority