

May 14, 2025

The Honorable Senator Anna Caballero, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 7620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*RE: Support for SB 635 -- Street Vendor Business Protection Act*

Dear Chair Caballero,

As a representative of the more than four million small businesses in California, Small Business Majority writes to express our support for Senate Bill 635, the Street Vendor Business Protection Act, which prohibits permittees from inquiring about a person's immigration or citizenship status and prevents fingerprinting or the disclosure of past criminal history for permitting purposes.

Small Business Majority is a national small business advocacy organization with offices across California and throughout the United States 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.

In the wake of ongoing threats of mass deportation, we recognize that immigrant sidewalk vendors face increased targeting and criminalization since many work in public and outdoor spaces that are vulnerable to potential immigration enforcement operations. Street vending plays a crucial role in the cultural and civic life of communities throughout California. Additionally, it offers important economic opportunities, especially for low-income and immigrant workers and gives entrepreneurs a chance to build their businesses gradually without the costs of owning a store front. For many vendors, sidewalk sales represent the first step on the economic ladder as they work toward the American dream.

SB 635 advances micro-entrepreneurs' economic security and stability by limiting the types of sensitive data that can be collected. Specifically, SB 635 would prevent federal immigration enforcement agents from accessing personal identifying data on sidewalk vendors collected by local governments that may disclose their immigration and citizenship status. SB 635 would also prohibit local sidewalk vending permitting procedures from inquiring about a person's immigration or citizenship status, as well as prevent the requirement of fingerprinting or the disclosure of past criminal history.

The kind of provisions found in SB 635 are supported broadly by small business owners nationwide. In fact, according to [our polling](#), 69% of small businesses are concerned about the negative impact of mass deportation policies on the U.S. economy as a whole, while 37% said they are concerned about the impact of mass deportations on their small business.

California's economy is reliant on our immigrant small business communities, and we must do what we can to protect their right to exist. SB 635 will have a transformative impact on the lives of the most vulnerable microentrepreneurs while strengthening communities across California that rely on the vibrant industry of sidewalk vending. We thank you for standing with California's sidewalk vendors in supporting this important bill and look forward to working with you further on these issues.

Sincerely,

Bianca Blomquist  
California Director, Small Business Majority