

May 21, 2025

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

The Honorable Roger Niello, Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7110
Sacramento, CA 9581

RE: SB 81 (Arreguin) - Health and care facilities: Information sharing

Dear Chair Caballero, Vice Chair Niello and members of the committee:

As a representative of the more than four million small businesses in California, Small Business Majority is pleased to support SB 81, which revises the definition of “medical information” to include immigration status under the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA).

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. Our work is bolstered by extensive research and deep connections with the small business community that enable us to educate stakeholders about key issues impacting entrepreneurs, with a special focus on the smallest businesses and those facing systemic inequities.

California’s economy is reliant on our immigrant small business communities, and we must do what we can to protect their right to exist. Federal enforcement officials are using hospitals as a means to target and arrest undocumented immigrants, instilling fear in immigrant and non-immigrant communities alike because they may be targeted when they receive medical attention. SB 81 aims to safeguard patients who are seeking—at times lifesaving or essential—care.

Undocumented immigrant communities make immeasurable contributions to the social and economic fabric of California. In fact, California is home to roughly 2.4 million undocumented individuals (6% of the state’s workforce), many of whom own or work for small businesses. In 2021, undocumented Californians contributed roughly \$5.5 billion in state and local taxes. What’s more, nearly one in five businesses in 2023 were started by immigrants, who are more likely to have employees than non-immigrant owned businesses and contribute more the \$1 trillion to our national economy annually.

This is a top issue for our network members. According to [our polling](#), 69% of small business owners 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.

For these reasons, Small Business Majority supports and urges you to support *SB 81 (Arreguin)*.

Sincerely,

Bianca Blomquist
California Director
Small Business Majority