



January 17, 2018

Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Room 4162
Sacramento, CA 94249-0056

RE: AB 626 the Homemade Food Operations Act (SUPPORT)

Dear Assmeblymember Garcia,

As a representative of the 28 million small businesses in America and the more than 3.5 million in California, Small Business Majority writes today in support of AB 626, which will help legitimize microenterprise home kitchen operations in our state. We believe that home cook operations can be pathways to entrepreneurship and small business ownership for underserved populations, especially for women and immigrants.

Small Business Majority is a national small business organization, founded and run by small business owners to focus on solving the biggest problems facing small businesses today. We actively engage small business owners and policymakers in support of solutions that promote small business growth and drive a strong economy. A key component of our work involves outreach and education to small business owners on a range of small business issues, including healthcare, retirement security, access to capital and more.

This bill aligns well with our goal of supporting small business owners and would-be entrepreneurs, as it will enable home cooks—mostly women, immigrants, and people of color—to use their skills to generate income. According to a poll by the C.O.O.K. Alliance¹, roughly 85% of cooks in the informal food economy are women, 35% are first generation immigrants, 40% are people of color and 40% have household incomes under \$40,000 a year. Without the fear of fines, thousands of existing home cooks will be able to openly access business education and training on safe food handling practices. Small-scale microenterprises are an important tool for those who may want to grow their business that would not otherwise have access to sufficient capital to enter the commercial food industry. Finally, this bill will protect consumers by ensuring public officials have access to the kitchens where the food is prepared and protecting their rights to use existing public health reporting mechanisms if concerns arise.

AB 626 will permit the sale of meals from home kitchen operations, and will improve public health safeguards around the existing informal food economy by legalizing small-scale home food operations and ensuring health and safety standards. We support any legislation that will help entrepreneurs thrive, and AB 626 will do just that.

Sincerely,

Mark Herbert, Small Business Majority
California Director

¹ Creating Opportunities, Opening Kitchens (C.O.O.K.) Alliance poll, <https://www.cookalliance.org>.