



April 11, 2019

The Honorable Autumn Burke
California State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for local partnerships in microenterprise development (AB 1577)

Dear Assemblywoman Burke,

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 1577, which would encourage increased local partnerships between public agencies and technical assistance providers to microenterprises. We believe this bill is an important step towards helping California's entrepreneurs grow and thrive.

Small Business Majority is a national small business advocacy organization with multiple offices throughout California, founded and run by small business owners to ensure America's entrepreneurs are a key part of a thriving and inclusive economy. We actively engage small business owners and policymakers in support of public policy solutions, and deliver information and resources to entrepreneurs that promote small business growth and drive a strong, sustainable job-creating economy. A key component of our work involves outreach and education to small business owners on key small business issues, including healthcare, retirement security, access to capital and more.

California's small businesses employ 6.7 million people, which amounts to about half of the private workforce, and created a quarter of a million jobs in 2013, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration. Many of these businesses rely on support and training from government agencies and technical assistance centers that help them write their business plan, prepare loan applications and match entrepreneurs with mentors who can help them navigate the process of starting a business. Increased partnership across these entities will encourage vital investment in California's job creators and chief exporters, particularly helping women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs of color. Indeed, increasing input from microenterprise development agencies into government programs will improve effectiveness of government programs.

We support any legislative action that will help entrepreneurs thrive, and AB 1577 will do just that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Herbert".

Mark Herbert, Small Business Majority
California Director