



April 26, 2022

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 2670 –CA RISE Program Support

Dear Assemblymember McCarty,

On behalf of California's 4.2 million small business owners, Small Business Majority writes in support of AB 2670, which would provide business assistance to small businesses hoping to make a positive social impact by providing jobs, training and support to employees who have barriers to employment.

Small Business Majority is a national small business organization that empowers America's 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 America's entrepreneurs, with a special focus on the smallest businesses and those facing systemic inequities.

California's small businesses are not only crucial to our state's economy, they are the bedrock of our communities. Small business owners famously hire from within their communities, providing jobs for people who may otherwise face barriers to gaining employment such as former incarceration, homelessness, mental illness or substance abuse. Employment social enterprises (ESEs) are innovative businesses that provide employment, and the support and training needed for these individuals to fully participate and succeed in the workforce. However, these entrepreneurs need support. According to [our polling](#), 82% have turned to some type of outside organization for support or resources for their business.

AB 2670 will create the California Regional Initiative for Social Enterprises (CA RISE) Program, which would support ESEs to provide targeted, specialized employment and workforce training, and would enable local entities to create regional networks that connect ESEs and their employees with the broader economy.

Small businesses want to continue supporting their communities. The CA RISE program can help them achieve that goal. This is why Small Business Majority supports AB 2670.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bianca Blomquist".

Bianca Blomquist
California Policy Director
Small Business Majority