



April 13, 2022

The Honorable Monique Limón
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 7330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 633 (Limón): Translated Contracts for Co-signers - SPONSOR

Dear Senator Limón:

Small Business Majority writes in support of SB 633 (Limón), which will require that non-English speaking co-signers be given a translated notice disclosing the financial responsibilities that they will undertake if they sign a contract. This will benefit the many non-English speaking small business owners in our state by ensuring they receive a copy of contracts and leases they sign in the language they speak.

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.

Nearly half of California households speak a language other than English at home. Existing law, Civil Code § 1632, provides that if a person negotiates a contract in one of the five languages other than English most commonly spoken in California—they must receive a copy of the contract in the language in which they negotiated. For example, if an entrepreneur negotiates a commercial lease in Spanish, they must receive a copy of the lease in Spanish. This law was enacted so when a contract is negotiated in another language, the consumer cannot be given a contract with different terms in English.

When a physical contract is only provided in English, a monolingual co-signer is unable to read the terms of the contract. The co-signer then has financial liability under the contract but no knowledge of the terms to which they have agreed.

SB 633 will benefit California's business owners, as they strive to conduct business in a fair and straightforward manner without unfair competition from less scrupulous rivals. For these reasons, I respectfully urge an "aye" vote on SB 633.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bianca Blomquist".

Bianca Blomquist
California Policy Director
Small Business Majority