



AB 5 STORIES

TESTIMONIALS OF CALIFORNIANS WHO
HAVE LOST THEIR LIVELIHOODS

**THE FOLLOWING ARE STORIES
OF CALIFORNIANS WHO HAVE
BEEN NEGATIVELY IMPACTED
BY AB 5.**

#AB5STORIES



CORI

“AB 5 is detrimental to my small blog. Hiring contractors to do small things for me here and there is how I make it work. I cannot ask all of those contractors to become employees. It is unsustainable. I will have to look out of state for help.”



#AB5STORIES

ELYSE

“As a person with a disability, freelance writing is the only way I have been able to make a living and have a viable career. AB 5 will not only rob people like me of having dignity and a source of income.”

#AB5STORIES



LUCY

“As an Independent contractor Interpreter I work for multiple agencies and have the freedom to work when I want and as much as I want. I love what I do and AB 5 will drastically limit the work I can perform. I can get a job with benefits and payroll deductions, but I prefer to work as an independent contractor because it's more lucrative and flexible.”



#AB5STORIES

BAOFENG

“I am a freelance translator. Two major clients just locked me out of vendor portals, just because I live in California. Over 90% of my income is from these two companies.”

#AB5STORIES



AMBER

“I love being my own boss, contributing to multiple publications, controlling my own schedule, being flexible enough to take time off whenever my young son needs me. If one of my clients offered me a full-time W-2 job, I’d probably say no. Luckily, I haven’t yet been directly impacted by AB5. But I do have a solid client that’s started offering me smaller pieces of work, so I worry about hitting that 35-submission limit. It’d be a shame if I had to turn down work, from a client that pays and treats me well, due to an arbitrary limit.”



#AB5STORIES

EDDIE

“I use my own tools to work in the entertainment industry and have to drive approx 30,000 miles a year. All of these are write offs that I depend on to stay in business. Take that away and my family is homeless including my 11 month old baby.”

#AB5STORIES



STEPHANY

“I quit my tech job 4.5 years ago to shear sheep and write. In mid 2017, I moved my grandmother to California. She is completely cognitively and physically impaired. I love my life, independence, business, and family. The state should not be able to take those away.”



#AB5STORIES

ANONYMOUS

“I am an online teacher hired as an IC. The company I work for is based in China....they have already stated that they will no longer hire CA teachers.”

#AB5STORIES



DONNA

“I am a bandleader and work with 20 different musicians through the course of the year. Some I will use once some 15-20 times. The costs of making them employees, work comp, payroll costs etc. will put me out of business.”



#AB5STORIES

LORRI

“Independent court and deposition reporters! We freelance for several firms, set our own schedule, don’t need benefits. Want to stay independent!”

#AB5STORIES



CLAIRE

“I am a translator and work as an independent contractor for many years, for only one company. I was told by email 20 days ago that I won’t be able to work for them anymore, starting in January. It’s my only income and I love what I do.”



#AB5STORIES

ANONYMOUS

“I write more than 35 freelance articles in a month, and this bill would cap me at less than that for a year. And it will not force anyone to hire me on staff.”

#AB5STORIES



NANCY

“I’m a pharmacist who’s lost my position as an IC who performs inspections of pharmacies across the country for compliance to standards of safe practices in nonsterile and sterile compounding.”



#AB5STORIES

MELISSA

“My husband is a band leader. Can’t get paid to play music on the weekends anymore because according to AB 5 he’d have to make the singer, drummer, and bass player employees of the band.”

#AB5STORIES



SUSAN

“I am a tax preparer. I prepare corporate and partnership returns for mostly entertainment clients. If they are forced to become employees of the studios, I lose my business. I’ve had some of my clients for 30 years.”



#AB5STORIES

MICHAELA

“Translation business-owner here. I have the option to contract translators elsewhere. But I would rather be able to continue contracting with excellent CA-based translators. AB 5 brings a lot of uncertainty. Without an exception, we may be forced to contract outside CA.”

#AB5STORIES



MAYAN

“Please understand that my mother, a translator and interpreter for over 30 years, will no longer be allowed to speak for immigrants in the court system because of AB 5.”



#AB5STORIES

ALEXIS

“Please fix AB 5 so that I may continue to put food on my table as I struggle to rebuild my home in Paradise. Still displaced after the Camp Fire.”

#AB5STORIES



ANDI

“Just lost my ability to earn a living because of California Assembly Bill 5. My freelance brokerage company says they have to let California authors go. Almost a decade of hard work gone in an instant. I can’t stop crying. Right before Christmas.”



#AB5STORIES

REBECCA

“Today, along with literally HUNDREDS of my colleagues, I was told that I can no longer hold a paid position at SB Nation. California, you’re breaking my heart (and taking my money).”

#AB5STORIES



WHITSON

“I cannot begin to explain the stress this has put on me and my family. I know there are no guarantees in this business. I could lose clients to layoffs, or to a recession. But I never thought the government would just take work away from me arbitrarily.”



#AB5STORIES

MALLORY

“I have been a professional journalist since 2005. I have worked full-time and freelanced for a significant amount of years in my career. Most recently, I was laid off from a full-time editor position Bustle in November and due to AB 5, many of the publications that were initially interested in me freelancing for them stopped being interested.”

#AB5STORIES



TRAVIS

“I am an independent contractor working in the film and television industry who’s had plenty of sleepless nights worrying about the future of my business. If AB 5 is not overturned, I don’t believe small service businesses such as mine have a future in this state.”



#AB5STORIES

JENNIFER

“I am a freelance Spanish interpreter and have been certified since 2012. AB 5 will dismantle our industry’s decades-old, proven independent contractor model and force us to adopt an unsustainable alternative which will drive many language professionals to leave our thriving careers and deprive limited English proficient individuals of their right to receive services in their primary language.”

#AB5STORIES



MARSHA

“I lost my job of 12 years as a medical transcriptionist because of AB 5. Many in this profession value the flexibility in hours and working from home more than employee status. Now I have no money at all.”



#AB5STORIES

KIRK

“After 27 years in construction trucking, own a home, raised 2 boys, own \$250,000 worth of CARB LEGAL equipment. AB 5 will put me out of business!”

#AB5STORIES



LAURA

“This hurts the Deaf community because of the complications in hiring and retaining qualified sign language interpreters.”



#AB5STORIES

CONNIE

“This affects my ability to work (and provide for my family as a single parent) in the Courts in multiple counties.”

#AB5STORIES



AUSTIN

“I am a full-time employee at a corporation in California, but I work as a freelance writer on the side for supplemental income. I enjoy my job as a writer, and I am very grateful of the publication I produce content for, as they have allowed me to maintain a flexible schedule and have afforded me the opportunity to be paid to do something I love.

After learning about how AB 5 will not only affect my livelihood, but that of hundreds of thousands of other Californians, it makes me sick to my stomach.”



#AB5STORIES

SUSAN

“I have been an independent contractor working as a court reporter for over 30 years. The opportunity to be an employee has always been available to me, but I chose freelancing because it afforded me the opportunity to put my family first, before my job.”

#AB5STORIES



JULIE

“I am an American Sign Language interpreter for the Deaf a majority of the work we do is as independent contractors since many locations only need our services occasionally. There is already a scarcity of qualified interpreters. This bill makes getting assignments covered even more difficult which means more Deaf people will be left without communication access.”



#AB5STORIES

MARIA

“I won’t be able to work as an American Sign Language interpreter. I work freelance and I have now been removed from all agencies I worked for in my capacity as interpreter.”

#AB5STORIES



STEPHANIE

“AB 5 is detrimental to the well being of my Deaf clients as well as my right to earn a living the way I want to. I’m losing so much work because agencies can’t afford to keep all of their sign language interpreters on as employees.”



#AB5STORIES

MICHAEL

“With this law, I’d never have been able to make the short films I have in the past. For aspiring filmmakers trying to break in, this is death.”

#AB5STORIES



CLAUDIA

“I’m a freelance language professional (translator) and my corporate clients are dropping my translation services starting this month.”



#AB5STORIES

HOPE

“This bill will devastate the services the Deaf community receive. Almost all the American Sign Language Interpreters that work in the community are Independent Contractors. We get the bulk of our work through agencies that work like clearing houses that send out the work. We set our pay and take the work if we want or don’t want.”

#AB5STORIES



ERNIE

“I’m retired and at age 75 the freelance writing I do for several publications is an important supplemental income source for me and my family. I’m good at what I do and produce about 200 articles a year. Yesterday I was notified that my work is being cut in half and I am losing one column entirely because I submit more than the arbitrary 35 to that publication.”



#AB5STORIES

JAY

“I have been a PR/Marketing Communications freelancer since 1992 and this legislation greatly impacts my ability to work.”

#AB5STORIES



KELLY

“I’m a freelance writer supporting myself and a family in Los Angeles, and AB 5 directly impacts how I can do that, as well as thousands of my colleagues.”



#AB5STORIES

ANTHONY

“I currently serve the courts as a certified Interpreter (Independent Contractor). Interpreters were among the list of “losers” who did not get an exemption from AB 5 and as a consequence, we are all in a state of chaos, knowing that the law makes it impossible for us to resume doing our work.”

#AB5STORIES



KATHERINE

“I am an online English teacher hired as an independent contractor...
In no way shape or form does it benefit me, in actuality it is detrimental
to my financial well being.”



#AB5STORIES

JOHN

“I have been a freelancer for 35 years and am in several areas of work, some of which are adversely affected by AB 5. I’ve had as many as 15 1099s in some years - it’ll be impossible to have that many W-2s and I’ll not be able to deduct business expenses.”

#AB5STORIES



JAN

“I’m an older woman with two teaching credentials living in a small county who cannot find employment outside of independent contractor online teaching jobs. One company has already announced they will no longer contract with California teachers. I care for a disabled husband. I will lose my home if I cannot work for these companies.”



#AB5STORIES

KATHERINE

“I am independent contractor for multiple companies and have been for over 6 years. This allowed me to be at home to care for my elderly parents. Because companies would rather err on the side of caution and not deal with the headache I’m backed into a corner and going to have to take a job outside of the home again and just hope nothing happens to them while I’m 40+ hours a week!”

#AB5STORIES



WENDY

“As a freelance journalist, this bill is devastating to me and my ability to earn enough money to support myself.”



#AB5STORIES

CONNIE

“The AB 5 law has now taken away my limited options for employment . I am not medically cleared to return to the workforce, I have problems standing and walking which severely impact my ability to find employment. My company as well as many other online teaching companies are now choosing to not work with California teachers. I have a bachelors degree as well as a teaching credential I am not a victim, I choose to work as an independent contractor because it is what suits my life best at this moment. AB 5 is taking away my choices and my livelihood away. I tried to apply to other companies and was told that they can no longer work with Californians, as of January 1, 2020 I will be unemployed and stand a chance of losing everything I have and becoming homeless because of this new law.”

#AB5STORIES



JESSICA

“I am an independent contractor for a company based in China. They recently announced they are no longer partnering with new California independent contractors. The current CA contractors are feeling like our jobs are in jeopardy.”



#AB5STORIES

ANDREA

“I’m a freelance writer who writes dozens of pieces for various clients each month. I did my writing through a content mill, which has now blocked California writers from communicating with any new clients and is limiting us to 34 articles per year for the clients we already had. For perspective, I often wrote more than 34 articles per MONTH for ONE of my clients alone.

I’m now losing these clients, many of whom I’ve worked with for years. I was incredibly happy with my work life prior to AB 5. I made enough money to satisfy my needs, and I was able to work when I wanted and take time off when I wanted, something I needed due to my chronic health problems.”

#AB5STORIES



WILLOW

“I am a freelance writer and filmmaker, and AB 5 directly impacts my ability to work, and my ability to hire film crew members!”



#AB5STORIES

LINDA

“I have successfully been freelancing for over 20 years. My job has allowed me to care for my mother and raise my son. This legislation now has the potential to destroy my writing business and the businesses of many of my colleagues.”

#AB5STORIES



NICOLE

“I am a professional in the photography and video industry. This bill is already costing me work as advertising agencies and clients are choosing to shoot out of state and hire non-Californians. I hold a degree in film production and have spent my entire career building a list of clients so that I can remain flexible to take care of my family and spend time with my husband who is a first responder.”



#AB5STORIES

AMY

“I’m a freelance writer who’s worked for a decade at my craft. AB 5 has essentially left me without any work.”

#AB5STORIES



RICHARD

“Musician. Multiple venues stating they’re worried about hiring live entertainment until the details regarding AB 5 are ‘sorted out’.”



#AB5STORIES

HSIAO-YU

“Software engineer contractor was my previous job and I loved it.
Now AB 5 took it away.”

#AB5STORIES



JENNIFER

“I own and run a very small business as a postpartum doula and Lactation educator and I enjoy being independent and autonomous. AB 5 limits me if I need/want to hire people as my business grows.”



#AB5STORIES

CATHERINE

“It takes away job flexibility for my sons to work while they are in college.”

#AB5STORIES



KATHLEEN

“My work as an independent is threatened, I am retired but like to supplement my income by picking up a few jobs during the year.”



#AB5STORIES

ELIZABETH

“As a mobile Notary Signing Agent, I am in limbo with this disastrous law.”

#AB5STORIES



RYAN

“I am the owner of a pediatric therapy company. We provide work to approximately 40 ICs who want to see a few clients in addition to their full time jobs. This law would force me to let go of all 40 ICs as I cannot afford to pay them.”



#AB5STORIES

KAREN

“I am currently working as a freelance food delivery driver and if this bad law is not appealed, then I would lose my livelihood and trying to find a good paying job at the age of 54 is nearly impossible due to age discrimination.”

#AB5STORIES



CARLA

“As a stay at home mother of three I rely on being an independent contractor and working from home. AB 5 hurts my family, it takes food off our tables and necessities for my children.”



#AB5STORIES

JANET

“There is no way my clients are going to hire me as an employee to work on sporadic projects during the year, so I will lose the ability to augment my social security and I’m not eligible for SNAP benefits. I’m 67 years old, on Social Security and if I can’t find a full time job at this point, I can’t pay the rent and eat!”

#AB5STORIES



WALTER

“I am an actor, singer, and storyteller, active throughout San Diego County. AB 5 is impacting my ability to work.”



#AB5STORIES

RACHEL

“I am a freelance musician and teacher living in Los Angeles. Much of my performance income is non-Union and I am hired to perform for each organization maybe once or twice a year. I am very concerned that my performance income will dry up, given the vast majority of arts organizations will not be able to comply with AB 5 and make musicians employees, nor does that make any sense given the business model.”

#AB5STORIES



REBEKAH

“I am a Pediatric Occupational Therapist with 23 years of experience in my field. Since starting a family, I have enjoyed the flexibility of working as a private contractor. Because of AB 5, this is no longer possible.”



#AB5STORIES

CHRISTINE

“I’ve already lost two writing jobs and I’m on the verge of losing a third. I will have no income source. I’ve lived in California my entire life, but am considering moving to Nevada.”

#AB5STORIES



GAIL

“I am a sign language interpreter and have worked self employed for almost 20 years. This impacts my livelihood by not letting agencies give me work.”



#AB5STORIES

NICOLAS

“I am a freelance musician. Some of the theater companies I work for are either cancelling shows or having to make some adjustments that are not sustainable in the long run.”

#AB5STORIES



SCOTT

“AB 5, within a week of it’s implementation, has already destroyed countless jobs in CA. As a music professional it has the potential to put me out of business and decimate my industry.”



#AB5STORIES

MARINA

“I’m a certified court interpreter. I have been freelancing for 15 years and very happy doing that. What I like about freelancing is that I only work for the good agencies (that pay well), I can work as much or as little as I want to spend time with my 3 year old. This law is destroying my wonderful work/life combo.”

#AB5STORIES



ROBIN

“My husband and I are both freelance professionals. Both of us have taken a huge financial hit. We have 3 children to provide for.”



#AB5STORIES

GEORGE

“I’m a self-employed freelance composer working from home, making just barely enough to survive. On occasion I will hire musicians to come in and do recording, doesn’t make sense to have them be an employee if I only hire them for a few hours at a time.”

#AB5STORIES



MARISA

“I just moved to California from the east coast. I work in film/media production, and Los Angeles is a “gig based” economy particularly in the film industry! I can’t find regular work now as I was already making near minimum wage as a Production Assistant (though I’m not struggling to pay rent by any means, as with typical overtime the pay levels out well). Positioning myself as an S-corp or LLC to jump through hoops for this law will cost more than it would benefit me. I’m now forced to look for full-time jobs (which are scarce!) just to avoid dealing with AB 5.”



#AB5STORIES

PAUL

“I’ve been a freelance writer and editor for 25 years. Working freelance has allowed me to raise my daughter from the day she came home from the hospital to the present (she’s 10), pick and choose both the work I do and the hours and days I do it, and work with incredible employers who have (with very few exceptions) ALWAYS had my best interests at heart. AB 5 will force me to leave jobs that I’ve held for over a decade and join a growing pool of other freelancers who are grabbing at the few freelance jobs that will be left for us.”

#AB5STORIES



MARLENE

“AB 5 has impacted my life. I am self employed by choice. I do not want to be an employee nor do I want to lose my tax exemptions as a company. I should not be forced into employment relationships with my clients, most of which will not hire me anymore if they are forced to become my employers. This law will destroy my business.”



#AB5STORIES

TRACY

“I am an ASL interpreter and work for several agencies. By being able to work for different agencies I can meet the needs of the Deaf community . With this bill I would no longer be able to work as I do and the Deaf community would suffer.”

#AB5STORIES



SUSAN

“As a freelance court reporter, AB 5 has upended my career. I have been working as an independent contractor since January of 1992. I WANT to be an independent contractor. In any given year, I can work with 10, 15, 20, even 30 different agencies to help cover calendar. Some I may only work for once. Some a handful of times. I do not want to be an employee of any of the agencies. I want to set my own hours, what depositions I choose to report, where I choose to work.”



#AB5STORIES

JULIA

“I am a freelance writer based in L.A. A couple years ago, I started freelancing - a change that allowed me to work from my own home, on my own hours, and own schedule. I now write for multiple publications and companies and, for the first time, feel in control of my mental health and livelihood. AB 5 threatens this and the thought of giving up my business devastates me. My work means everything to me. It is not a question - if AB 5 were to take my work away, I'd have to move. It simply would not be an option to stay here.”

#AB5STORIES



NIKKI

“I’m a freelance musician and a realtor. I’m 90% self employed. ALL of my freelance work is independently contracted and I have over 30+ clients and vendors (annually) who I provide services for. THIS LAW DOES NOT HELP ME. In turn, it actually makes it very difficult for me to do any sort of work for these 30+ clients without them having to provide benefits for me.”



#AB5STORIES

DEBORAH

“I’m a 67-year-old grandmother living on Social Security. Up until Jan 1st I was also an online transcriptionist earning approx \$200 a month in much needed additional income. I love the work and it is a perfect fit for work-from-home situations, however due to AB 5, California residents were dropped by the world-wide company I was working for.”

#AB5STORIES



RYLAND

“With the implementation of AB 5, I, as a musician, producer, and contractor, will not be hiring anyone this year so long as AB 5 is in effect. I cannot afford the added expenses. Additionally, several companies I work for I are struggling to determine how to remain afloat as they are service based and do not bring in hefty profits beyond what the team members are paid.”



#AB5STORIES

JESSICA

“As a freelance court reporter, I choose when to work, what jobs to take, and how to transcribe testimony. I do not want to be an employee. As a new mom I can tell agencies that I only want afternoon work or only morning work, or that I only want to work on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As an employee, I would not get to pick a schedule that works for me.”

#AB5STORIES



NELLY

“As a Single mom of 3, I depend on all my freelance work that I get medical interpreting to help meet ends. I make just enough to cover all my bills.”



#AB5STORIES

SYLVIA

“I am an independent musician, and I run the Non-profit community orchestra, Southland Symphony. We are attempting to shift to a model to comply, but there is a very real chance that we will not be able to sustain our operation with these new costs and requirements. We provide music for our community, provide free admission to our concerts for those who cannot afford tickets, perform for several city events each year, and more. But we may not be able to continue unless this bill is repealed.”

#AB5STORIES



JOHN

“I’m a freelance composer in the film industry and consistently employ musicians throughout the year, in addition to my own freelance employment. If this comes down as onerous as it appears to be, I will have not choice but to leave the state I was born and raised in and/or increase my employment of oversea musicians and out of state musicians.”



#AB5STORIES

DANIELLE

“I am a freelance court reporter in California. We are not part of the gig economy. We are highly trained and skilled and work for various court reporting firms, law firms and courthouses. We make our own schedule and accept the work we choose. We are no way employees with the many firms we work for. Classifying freelance court reporters as employees will affect our livelihood in a negative way.”

#AB5STORIES



JAMIE

“I am a freelance licensed stenographer/court reporter licensed by the state of California. AB 5 will impact my livelihood in so many ways. I choose to be an independent contractor.”



#AB5STORIES

JENNIFER

“I have been a self employed sign language interpreter for 40 years. If I have to follow AB 5, I wouldn't been able to work anymore, since I'm getting close to retirement age. I love my work, I love choosing my own schedule, and interpreters are in high demand.”

#AB5STORIES



TRICIA

“I am a freelance court reporter, licensed by the State of California. I have been an independent contractor for 25 years, business license issued by City of San Diego. My clients are reporting agencies. I choose my assignments, negotiate my own rates, provide my own equipment, set my own schedule, and invoice over 30 clients (agencies) a year. I am now being told by my clients that they cannot do business with me unless I incorporate. I am a sole proprietor and have decided a corporation is not best for me, but I will be driven into bankruptcy if I don’t.”



#AB5STORIES

CANDI

“I have two children to support and AB 5 would be financially detrimental for my family. The ability to be an independent and name my own rates has allowed me to make ends meet to support my family.”

#AB5STORIES



MICHELE ANN

“I have spent most of my adult life creating a career as a freelance writer. I have non-traditional skills that would prevent me from being hired by a newspaper but I have a longterm newspaper client for just this reason, I have skills staff writers do not have. If I were to lose this gig (about 110 articles a year), everything, including my ability to write books (I’ve written 24 so far) would fall apart.”



#AB5STORIES

VIVIEN

“I am a freelance press photographer. The 35 submission cap silences me.”

#AB5STORIES



LORRAINE

“I may be losing my job as an independent contractor doing transcribing for almost 30 years. AB 5 is life-destroying.”



#AB5STORIES

ELIZABETH

“I am a Certified Shorthand Reporter in the State of California who will be adversely affected by AB 5. As a licensed professional, I do not want or need to be classified as an employee since I work for many agencies reporting depositions and court hearings and can set my own rates and job schedule.”

#AB5STORIES



KRISTEN

“I am a freelance sign language interpreter. AB 5 only hurts my profession by not allowing us the flexibility we need to be able to create and manage our own schedules to accept the jobs we need and are qualified for. We do not wish to work as employees nor will that structure fit how our career operates. It will likely drive up service costs while we are paid less which will hurt thousands of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals who will not be able to get adequate services or any services at all. We could be pushed out of state to even find adequate work which will worsen the issue that we don't have enough qualified interpreters to fill all areas of need.”



#AB5STORIES

LISA

“I am a Certified Shorthand Reporter. For my whole career, 24 years, I’ve been an independent contractor. I love being independent. I accept/decline work as it fits into my life and my family’s life.”

#AB5STORIES



HAANA

“I am a music producer and it unnecessarily complicates every aspect of my business currently as a sole proprietor. This bill will be the death of the music industry in CA.”



#AB5STORIES

COLEEN

“As an independent freelance Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR), AB 5 is going to put me and the firms I work for out of business. We as freelance CSRs have always been independent contractors. It allows us to have a flexible schedule, to work for multiple agencies when we want to, so we have time for our family and other commitments.”

#AB5STORIES



ANGEL

“This law will negatively effect my ability to manage my business. All of my contractors work for me about 2 hours out of each month, there is no way I can keep up with the amount of paperwork in turning them into employees. This law will ruin my business.”



#AB5STORIES

KERRY

“I have been working as a freelance court reporter since 1999. I also do transcription and scoping works. I should be able to continue the career I have established for the last 21 years.”

#AB5STORIES



LOURDES

“I am an independent freelance court reporter who loves being able to work whenever I choose. As a mother of two very young children, this bill will definitely impact my livelihood on being able to provide for my family.”



#AB5STORIES

SANDY

“I’m a self employed musician, bandleader and instructor. If I have to do payroll for my band members, it will most likely make it unfeasible to continue to do work as a musician.”

#AB5STORIES



COLLEEN

“I am a court reporter in California that does depositions. I do work for many different firms. Two firms have already notified me that they can no longer give me work. I am the one who supports my family, and I have been doing this work for over 30 years. I’m not sure what to do now...”



#AB5STORIES

CALISTA

“I am a terminal manager for a transportation company that leases owner operators to transport mobile offices and manufactured homes. Due to this law, the company I work for will be closing my terminal and cancelling the California based owner operators leases.”

#AB5STORIES



JENNIFER

“I am a freelance American Sign Language interpreter, and the only way for our industry to successfully deliver quality interpretation and translation services to members of the deaf community is to allow our long-standing business structure to remain intact. AB 5 would cause serious harm to the provision of interpretation and translation services to deaf individuals.”



#AB5STORIES

ORSON

“I am an operatic tenor and artist. The implementation of this law would greatly affect my ability to bring awareness and inspiration to the communities at large.”

#AB5STORIES



JOSH

“(AB 5) is devastating for opera singers in California. I hire hundreds of singers and musicians per year, and this bill may cut that number in half, or force us to close all together.”



#AB5STORIES

AMY

“I am an independent contractor physical therapist by choice so that I can work part time and care for my child. Please repeal AB 5 because it will take a lot of moms out of the work force.”

#AB5STORIES



KAITLYN

“Having recently moved to California, I’ve been relying heavily on freelance writing as a source of income. With the passing of AB 5, I have just been locked out of my freelance writing platforms, and am left to scramble to find other means to pay my bills.”



#AB5STORIES

ROSEMARY

“I am a freelance Sign Language interpreter with a very specialized skill set that I have worked many years to develop. AB 5 hinders my ability to meet a specific language need in the deaf community by blocking agencies from hiring me when and as needed.”

#AB5STORIES



ANDREW

“As a nurse anesthesiologist, I have found AB 5 to limit my ability to have multiple contracts and affect my business negatively. Those I contract with no longer feel safe offering a 1099 contract to me; however, neither of us are interested in a W2. This inhibits my ability to be competitive in the field.”



#AB5STORIES

JOE

“I am a freelancer. Freelancing has been necessary for me in California to make ends meet and support my family. Having read the text of (AB 5), I fear it will be too difficult to find companies who are willing to utilize my services. I may be unable to continue working with some of my current clients.”

#AB5STORIES



MISTI

“Due to the passing of AB 5, I had to quit working as a licensed massage therapist. Being an independent contractor at a chiropractors office, I do not have the money to be setting up a business right now.”



#AB5STORIES

LEE

“My wife and I are independent insurance adjusters. AB 5 is having huge and negative impacts on our profession.”

#AB5STORIES



CRIS

“I am a freelance sign language interpreter. To force interpreters to become employees is to endanger their livelihood and self determination, and also endangers the availability of interpreters for the deaf community.”



#AB5STORIES

ELIZABETH

“I have a disability which makes flexible hours essential to my ability to earn income. My health has improved when I can freelance more and get out of the set schedule and being in an office. Now the one thing I can predictably and successfully earn income with is disappearing. This law is hurting all of us who need to work flexible and irregular schedules for all kinds of family and health reasons.”

#AB5STORIES



JEFF

“I am a picture editor in the entertainment industry. The amount of companies that now deny loan out services has grown and it is affecting earnings.”



#AB5STORIES

ALICIA

“I just got my first notice that because of AB 5 I won’t be paid for a big comedy show I’m promoting - but I have to do the show anyway in order to get more shows. This could cripple my performing career.”

#AB5STORIES



RENEE

“The last few months have been an emotional roller coaster because of AB 5. As a small business in the entertainment transcription and translation field I’ve utilized the skills of local transcription specialists. It pained me to tell my California transcribers that I could no longer work with them. The law is causing chaos, grief, fear and anger in the CA freelance community.”



#AB5STORIES

LYNN

“I am a transcriptionist. I work from home and I love it. Just recently, without notice, the companies I work for were forced to cut off all their California workers. They are still operating, because they have transcriptionists all over the world working for them. But those of us in California just lost our livelihood.”

#AB5STORIES



RENE

“I am a freelance certified stenographer. I’ve been working as an independent contractor for over 30 years. This is the only way deposition reporters can operate and be viewed as independent, non-biased parties in litigation.”



#AB5STORIES

ANDI

“As a highly skilled and educated freelancer, this law adversely impacts my ability to provide for my family. My work as a freelancer allows me to homeschool and contribute to my household financially. This law greatly impacts us and as a result, I am considering a move out of my native state so that we may continue to provide for our family.”

#AB5STORIES



GWEN

“I have been a freelance certified stenographer since 1986. I work for as many as 15-20 different agencies in any given year reporting pre-trial depositions. I am trained for nothing else. It would be devastating for me. I would not be able to be an employee because that would mean I was not impartial, which a court stenographer absolutely must be. The burden it would be on the legal industry needs to be considered as well as the harm to all freelance reporters working in the state.”



#AB5STORIES

ELISABETH

“I am an independent, reporter-owned court reporting business and working freelance reporter. This AB5 is killing my business.”

#AB5STORIES



KATHRYN

“I am (was) a transcriber working from home. I am a senior citizen living on a very small fixed income and absolutely need the little bit of money I earned as an independent contractor. AB 5 has devastated my life. I don’t know how I will be able to pay my bills and afford to live.”



#AB5STORIES

JENNIFER

“I am a freelance Spanish interpreter and choose to be independent. I contract with about 40 Language Services Companies each year, subcontract from 10 to 15 colleagues and have a handful of direct clients. I have already received a couple new contracts from the Language Services Companies with indemnity sections that place the burden for enforcement of AB 5 on the individual interpreters. If I refuse to sign these contracts, I will lose out on an estimated \$8,000 of income in 2020. AB 5 will dismantle our industry’s decades-old, proven independent contractor model and force us to adopt an unsustainable alternative which will drive many language professionals to leave our thriving career.”

#AB5STORIES



CINDY

“I have been a sign language interpreter for 30 years. I have been self-employed for 25 of those years. If AB 5 is not repealed, it will seriously affect my income in a negative way. As a self-employed person I control how much I charge per hour and how many hours I work on any given day. AB 5 will take away the freedom that I have had for 25 years to live and work in a way that works for me.”



#AB5STORIES

MARIANNE

“As a freelance reporter, I do not work with one firm exclusively due to where I reside. I need to work with multiple court reporting firms all over the state. If AB 5 is not repealed, there will be many freelance court reporters who will retire.”

#AB5STORIES



JULIA

“I am a translator and certified interpreter for State and Federal Courts, and have been an independent contractor in California for almost 30 years. Some of my clients retain my services only a few times per year. We provide a professional and fundamental service to our community. Far from protecting us, AB 5 is the reason many interpreters and translators already started losing their jobs.”



#AB5STORIES

KYLE

“I am a freelance writer working for a number of publications. AB 5 would absolutely gut my work load, cutting my pay by 70% and leaving me unable to pay bills to support my family.”

#AB5STORIES



JEFFREY

“I’ve been doing writing and editing work as a remote-working independent contractor for nearly three years now. In anticipation of AB 5, my employer stopped renewing the contracts of California workers. I haven’t been able to find work since then.”



#AB5STORIES

JAYSON

“I’m an independent owner operator in the trucking industry. With the passage of AB 5, my 25 years worth of work will be destroyed.”

#AB5STORIES



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#AB5STORIES

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#AB5STORIES



MICHELLE

“I am a nail technician renting a space in a very tiny hair salon. I am my sole provider and this bill will put me out of business.”



#AB5STORIES

JOSHUA

“I am a freelance musician who will be severely affected by this bill. If clubs and restaurants are hit with the extra expenses of making every musician they hire “employees,” they will simply opt for strictly pre-recorded music. Essentially, creatives will be completely squeezed out of the California economy.”

#AB5STORIES



STEVEN

“I am a freelance musician. If left as-is, this bill will be the death blow to my career, my colleague’s careers, and my industry.”



#AB5STORIES

TIM

“I am an orchestra manager for one of the hundreds of 501(c)(3) organizations that provide cultural events to enhance the lives of our local citizens. AB 5 will decimate this enriching bunch of organizations.”

#AB5STORIES



KATHERINE

“I’m a freelance court reporter. There is no way I can do my job and make the money I have been making if I’m working as an employee for one agency. Doing so would be cutting my earnings by \$40,000 to \$60,000 a year!”



#AB5STORIES



“I am a freelance, independent contractor California Certified Shorthand Reporter. It is very important to me that I remain an independent contractor as I require the flexibility that being an independent contractor provides. Being treated as employees would not only be detrimental to freelance court reporter’s work lives, but also to our personal lives.”

#AB5STORIES



STACY

“I am a consumer who has had the cost of AB 5 passed onto me. I take music lessons. The music company that provides the lessons through the use of independent contractors has passed their costs of having to hire these independent contractors as employees onto me. The cost of my lessons has increased as a result of AB 5, I may have to cancel them.”



#AB5STORIES

KATE

“I have a social media management business and am at a point where I no longer do all the work myself. I have 4 clients and am already burning out physically and mentally. However, I need to take on more clients in order to make a livable income. Without contractors helping me, I will not be able to do so. My business will suffer and so will my ability to make enough money to pay my bills because i cannot afford to hire them as employees.”

#AB5STORIES



SHONNA

“I had to close my company of 10 years due to the AB 5 law! It has destroyed my finances, and I had to lay off 20 people. It is very difficult to keep up a small business for many people at this point.”



#AB5STORIES

ERNIE

“I have been a columnist for several publications. When AB 5 was adopted my workload was essentially cut in half. I lost one column entirely and was cut back to 35 annually on a second for one publication. For a second publication, my work was cut to 35. This has been a significant loss of income for me.”

#AB5STORIES



DAVID

“I’m a journalist and seven-time published author. I freelance as a means to supplement my income and feed my family, but now I can’t contribute to my own blog and I’m missing out on \$1,000 per month.”



#AB5STORIES

DAVE

“Until AB 5 erased my income, I was a successful freelance writer. Several of my largest and most lucrative clients stopped working with me on January 1, causing my income to plummet.”

#AB5STORIES



RYAN

“I’m an entertainer who performs mostly at private events. When I am already booked, I send out 2 other people to perform. I signed contracts with clients and took deposits back in 2018-19 for shows in 2020. The budgets were set. Now having to pay for workers comp, payroll taxes, accountants, payroll company, sick days, I stand to lose \$89,000 in 2020.”



#AB5STORIES

ESTHER

“I am a freelance interpreter, I help people who do not speak English communicate with their medical providers. I am a proud senior, capable of being independent and self sufficient. AB 5 leaves me out of work.”

#AB5STORIES



ANNE

“Since being laid off in 2016, I’ve managed to build a steady stream of income through freelance writing and consulting. Because I don’t have to commute, I am more productive and earn more. I’m also grateful for the flexibility to work while still being able to spend plenty of time with my young child. Due to the high cost of child care, I cannot afford to take a full-time job—but working for myself has made it possible for me to be a good worker and a good parent. However, due to AB 5, I’m at risk of losing my main client and only consistent and predictable source of income. Many companies are simply choosing not to work with California freelancers, instead abandoning long-standing professional relationships only because of AB 5. The ripple effects of AB 5 mean lost wages and lost opportunity not just for freelancers, but for the fellow workers we employ. If I lose my clients, my husband and I will no longer be able to afford our home.”



#AB5STORIES

CONNIE

“I am a transcriptionist. All the transcription work is now going out of state. No transcription company in California will use us, and the transcription companies out of state won't use us. We are out of work because of AB 5.”

#AB5STORIES



JOHN

“I am a guest orchestral conductor. I depend on my contractor status to maintain sustainable fees, while not fleecing orchestras. Because of this bill, I just lost my first scheduled job with an orchestra - \$9000 that would have put a dent in my student loans, or helped pay my insurance, or paid for food and shelter is now gone - all because of AB 5.”



#AB5STORIES

ANGEL

“I run a small entertainment company and use about 300 contractors through the course of the year. Some I will use once some 15-20 times. The costs of making them employees, work comp, payroll costs etc. will put me out of business.”

#AB5STORIES



JANET

“As an independent songwriter, AB 5 gravely endangers my ability to earn a living.”



#AB5STORIES

AEDAN

“I’m a 27 year old freelance writer and my heart is broken. As is, full-time positions within media companies are a rarity — and now the two that I primarily do freelance contributions for have let me go because of AB 5. This not only has stripped me of an opportunity to pursue my passion and make some semblance of money from it, but it’s extremely disheartening to those who pay their bills (and taxes).”

#AB5STORIES



ANGELICA

“I became a certified interpreter just last year. Finding agencies is hard and now the few I know are asking me to become incorporated, until I get a business license/corporation, I cannot work. I haven’t worked as an interpreter so far in January. My bills are starting to add up.”



#AB5STORIES

STEPHANIE

“I am an American Sign Language Interpreter who has already lost work after AB 5 was passed. Many agencies that I contract with cannot afford to make us all employees so my contracts were terminated. I chose this profession knowing that the majority of my work would be as an independent contractor and I was okay with that. Now, after 10-plus years in the field, I don’t have any say in what jobs I take because there aren’t any for me to choose from. What’s worse is my Deaf clientele won’t have as many interpreters to choose from and there are already not enough of us in this field.”

#AB5STORIES



MYRNA

“I started working with a company doing remote dental billing in January of 2018 to supplement my Social Security check. I am 66 and I really loved staying home and doing my job in the field that I’m good at. Now I am told I have to get an LLC which I cannot afford to keep being an independent contractor with them. So I have lost my job and my income that was helping me stay in my home and on my feet.”



#AB5STORIES

EDDIE

“As a freelance musician and sound engineer, I am hired by various groups for either or both of my professional services. None of which am I an employee nor should I be because there is no guaranteed 40 hours of work per work or otherwise. Moreover, my wife and I have adapted our lives, especially in regards to our children, to not have to pay much in babysitting because my flexible schedule allows me to work when I want and be home when I want. Becoming an employee somewhere would do far more bad than good for us.”

#AB5STORIES



JESSICA

“I have been an American Sign Language interpreter for the deaf for half my life. Many agencies I work with are letting go of all ties with ICs and hiring a skeleton crew of employees to cover some of their work. Others are shutting down. I am now down to very, very few options to feed my family. From someone who has worked full time my entire career, I’ll be very lucky if I can work even part time now.”



#AB5STORIES

ELLEN

“I am a Dance Teacher and Choreographer working in several different schools and community centers, with contracts that last generally between six weeks and three months. AB 5 will kill my livelihood of more than 30 years.”

#AB5STORIES



CHARLES

“For the past three years, I’ve worked as a freelance writer producing translations for one client and copywriting for dozens of clients through a referral service. As a result of AB 5, I’ve been reduced to 34 submissions a year from well over 700 by the referral service, which is about 60% of my income.”



#AB5STORIES

CAROLE

“I am a long-time freelance writer. One of my best clients dropped me at the beginning of 2020. I lost several thousand dollars last year from this outlet for my work. Also, I am having more trouble than usual placing stories in general. Unfortunately, I am not going to be able to make up this money with my profession, so my only choice might be to attempt another line of work.”

#AB5STORIES



REBEKAH

“I am a Pediatric Occupational Therapist with over 20 years experience in my field. When my husband and I started a family, we decided that I would leave my full time school district position (As a W-2 employee, benefits, retirement, etc.) in favor of the flexibility of being an independent contractor. When my children were very young, I worked two days a week. I was almost able to recoup my full time pay! A few years ago, one of my school district positions switched back to an employee status. I remained an IC for another company that I work for. Our state organization, the Occupational Therapy Association of CA, sought an exemption from AB5. That obviously wasn't granted. I cannot pass the ABC test, as I provide a service similar to what the contracting agency that I contract with provides. Contract based therapy services- whether it's Occupational or Physical Therapy, or Speech-Language Pathology, are mandated by IDEA. There are times, especially in small rural school districts, that contracting for services makes sense. I have been given the option to become a W2 employee. I will lose out on hourly wages, my take home pay will be lower, and will not have the tax benefits of being an independent contractor.”



#AB5STORIES

GERALD

“I am a 58-year-old freelance musician and graphic artist. I have been earning all or part of my income as an independent contractor since I was seventeen-years-old. AB 5, as it is currently written, is already losing me work and causing an unfair burden related to trying to work as a freelancer.”

#AB5STORIES



SARAH

“I have been a full time small business owner and artist for 10 years and this law is hurting small businesses. This law makes it difficult for small businesses to hire independent writers, graphic designers, virtual assistants, marketing reps, and other necessary Gig work that helps small businesses to be able to grow. It’s going to take the arts, music, literature, and culture out of our lives by forcing artists to either incorporate, which is extremely cost prohibitive in California, or to stop producing art, meaning that the patrons of the arts will lose access to art programming that enriches the lives of the people in our communities. People who choose to work as Freelance workers have chosen this path because they want the flexibility to set their own hours and rates and work when they want and they will no longer be able to excel in their creative fields under AB 5. This law hurts the lower and middle class people who have side gigs, creative gigs, or are trying to launch their own small business.”



#AB5STORIES

TIMOTHY

“With this new AB 5 law, it will be REALLY difficult for me as a small marketing/ad agency owner to grow and scale. I cannot give other creative professionals job opportunities. I cannot afford to put employees on payroll until my business becomes steady enough to where I can hire full-time staff. Most of the freelancers we hire do not even want to be considered employees. They love the creative freedom!”

#AB5STORIES



RACHELE

“I am a stay at home mom of twin boys. Being able to work from home has allowed me to support my family and raise the boys. I was a medical transcriptionist. Because of this new law I will now need to obtain employment outside of my home which will be very difficult as I have been out of the workforce for 10 years, working from home. I will also now need to obtain daycare for the boys, costing several hundred a month.”



#AB5STORIES

RL

“I have been a freelance cartoonist for a small newspaper for 25 years. With these new rules, most smaller publications would never hire a cartoonist as an employee. With the 35 submission limit, I can’t even do a weekly cartoon anymore. The income I receive helps to augment my social security and under AB 5 I would get a \$3000 per year pay cut.”

#AB5STORIES



ALEXIS

“I am a professional, independent sign language interpreter. I work as an independent contractor and set my own schedule. AB 5 threatens unfairly and adversely affects my ability to function as an independent contractor.”



#AB5STORIES

LORALYN

“I have been a Sign Language Interpreter for more than 30 years. As I near retirement age, the concept of losing my means of earning a living is devastating.”

#AB5STORIES



ROBIN

“Working as a freelance writer, editor, and recipe developer has allowed me to be at home to take care of my young son and to maintain steady work and income. I have happily worked for myself providing services to multiple clients for nearly 20 years. I have built a successful business for myself, but I have already lost one lucrative contract this year because of AB 5 and I fear that others will follow.”



#AB5STORIES

ZENAB

“I am an Arabic Interpreter and a mother. I have been working as a freelance independent contractor for over 19 years. I am a professional that worked very hard to achieve my educational goals to be recognized in my field of work. There is a very high demand for Arabic interpreters in our community and not enough professionals. Now, and because of AB 5, we are not able to do our jobs and duties towards our community. I had over 5 letters from agencies in the first week of 2020 telling me they are not going to work with me as freelancers due to AB 5. I am very frustrated because I am no longer able to do what I love and no longer able to provide for myself and my family in California. I might have to move out to be able to live a decent life.”

#AB5STORIES



TINA

“My small staffing business is significantly impacted as a result of this. My Independent Contractors (ICs) have taken a significant cut in pay, my business has taken a reduction in profitability and I am losing clients as a result.”



#AB5STORIES

LAUREN

“I’m new to the writing world, but freelance writing for the past year has been my dream come true. I’ve loved everything about it, but especially the freedom. I wrote what I wanted, when I wanted, for who I wanted. I controlled my income, my schedule, and choose my subjects. Now, in order to continue living my humble writing dream, I have to consider leaving my home; the state I grew up in, my parents grew up in, and my grandparents grew up in. That makes me incredibly sad.”

#AB5STORIES



REINA

“For a retired performing artist who simply would like to receive a little compensation to be able to pay myself and other retired performing artists who work with me, this bill is most disturbing, frustrating, discouraging and literally career-ending for my little performing group. My performing friends and I simply want to give back to our community by performing at retirement homes and local club organizations. We do it because we love it. Not for a paycheck. Not for retirement benefits. Because of AB 5, I will need to stop inviting people to perform with me for a little stipend, or I will need to simply stop paying them and let them volunteer their time. Yes, of course they would be willing to volunteer, but they work hard to learn music and dances. I would just like to honor them by paying them something. And I doubt that my performers, who may earn a whopping \$500 a year, would be interested in getting a business license.”



#AB5STORIES

NANCY

“I am an optometrist and mother of two. AB 5 has slashed my income by 30 percent overnight. Why weren't optometrists given an exemption when other medical doctors were? This is unfair! Doctors have historically worked as independent contractors. This gives us the flexibility to work at multiple locations that need us. We do not need or want to be any part of this bill. We are not exploited workers. We are professionals that are happy being independent contractors. Being contractors allows us to deliver medical care efficiently and economically. This bill will drive up the cost of health care which is already too high.”

#AB5STORIES



JARED

“AB 5 forced me to shut down my business over night and fundamentally changed the way my industry has to do business. I went from making about \$80,000 a year in home services to a minimum wage employee doing the exact same job. Being self employed I was able to insure myself for far less than a company can. I can no longer invest in my business to grow it for my children or write off the expenses of doing so. My family trade is gone. I have gone from planning to work only 4 days a week to spend more time with my kids to not knowing if I can make ends meet working 7 days.”



#AB5STORIES

KRISTIN

“As a professional classical soprano, I rely on multiple gigs collectively for income as an independent contractor. Making a living with one full-time job in the opera field rarely exists. I’ve already lost all work starting this year because of this poorly written bill as the projects I was contracted to sing have been cancelled. Students and freelancers rely upon the freedom to be able to earn income via these short term contracts - they don’t want to be employees. As a board member for a mid-tier non-profit Opera company, we would be unable to produce operas going forward under the AB5 labor laws. We exist in order to expose communities to this art form, either free of charge or for a very nominal ticket price. We obtain our revenue via small grants, fundraisers, benefit concerts, silent auctions and ticket sales in order to just break even and pay our singers, conductors, etc. Our contractors rely on our projects, in addition to others in order to collectively supplement them with opportunities and income.”

#AB5STORIES



TUOMAS

“I’ve been a successful freelance translator in California for over 20 years but now AB 5 threatens to make me unemployed. I’ve already lost several clients because of it. I offer Finnish language services to tens of language service companies all over the United States and none of these companies would consider hiring me as an employee for the small amount of intermittent work I do for each individual client – nor would I want to be hired or classified as an employee. I want to decide my clients, projects, rates and ways to operate. I’m in this business because of the freedom it offers.”



#AB5STORIES

ROSANNE

“I am I am a professional singer, and I also do transcription work to earn m living. Because of this bill I am now unemployed. If it trickles over into my music gigs, I plan on leaving California. This has been absolutely devastating to me and has left me scrambling to try to find a job. This has turned my world upside down.”

#AB5STORIES



JEAN

“I have been a contract tech writer in the medical device industry for 15 years. Because I can’t afford to live in the Bay Area, I live on the central coast and contract for companies in the SF Bay Area where medical device industry thrives. My last project ended in December. I am now unemployed with no prospects thanks to AB 5. This is devastating. I have no idea how I’m going to pay my mortgage and stay afloat. Gig jobs will now be given to writers living outside the state.”



#AB5STORIES

JESSICA

“I am a transcriptionist. I homeschool my kids. I attend college with a double major. I provide childcare for my grandson. I was in no way exploited by the company I contracted with. I made \$60 per 1 hour audio file. I paid taxes and had benefits. I chose my own hours. I built my whole life around independent contracting. It was all taken away. How will I continue to provide childcare, homeschooling, and pursue my degree now?”

#AB5STORIES



COURT

“My wife and I are freelance event entertainers who do live caricatures. Since AB 5 went into effect Jan. 1, we have received no inquiries to book with any corporate clients, which is very unusual. Event entertainment is our primary source of income. And it seems to be drying up. Companies seem to be staying away from any vendors and suppliers if they are in California because they don’t want to risk violating this law. Also, this law forces us to hire all of our local colleagues who work with us at events as employees, even if we only use them for a single event once a year, which is often the case. Likewise, all of these other artists would have to make me and my wife their employees if we ever help them out at an event. For a local network of people to all simultaneously be each others’ employees and employers at the same time is insane. But that’s what AB 5 would force us to do, or we risk fines that would bankrupt us.”



#AB5STORIES

LARRY

“I have a full time job, but I supplement my income as a sound engineer and video editor in order to support my disabled wife. I’m the sole provider in our household. I’m losing freelance work and necessary income thanks to AB 5. I’m considering moving out of CA, and taking my wife away from her family just to be able to stay financially afloat.”

#AB5STORIES



CAROL

“I lost my home in the Camp Fire of 2018. The only silver lining I had was that I didn’t lose my livelihood as so many others did because I’m able to work remotely from anywhere. AB 5 put an end to that. Still displaced, my income has been severely diminished. This makes it so much harder to get back home. Rebuilding costs have more than doubled since the fire, and my insurance already doesn’t cover my entire loss. Now I will have to divert some of those proceeds just to live.”



#AB5STORIES

JENNIFER

“On January 1st, I and dozens of my other freelance transcription colleagues were unceremoniously and swiftly laid off. I had blinked at the new computer monitor I had just purchased with my transcription earnings when I had logged into my work email that day. Laid off? I leaned back in my ergonomic chair and rested my feet on my new mini work desk. The month of January was the month that I had budgeted and calculated that I could start paying off family members, student loans, get a car, and sign my daughter up for dance lessons. I had been asked a few months prior to join a medical team for the company I was contracting with and finally, finally, I was making big strides and sighing in relief. That day, I almost threw up. After years of not even scraping by I had finally found my little niche. Being a single mom I had been lost but decided to freelance transcribe while my daughter went to preschool paid for by the state. I can say it was a literal life-saver and every day I was waking up thanking this great country with it's freedom to freelance and build a pretty great life from the ground-up.”

#AB5STORIES



ANNA

“I’m a telephonic interpreter. I work as an independent contractor with several companies, servicing both government and commercial sectors. Literally, on 01/01/20, my account was frozen with one of my companies, demanding that I form a CORPORATION and sign my contract ANEW as one. No, they dont let me be just a DBA. Another company also just put me into an inactive status due to AB 5 without giving any further explanations.”



#AB5STORIES

DANIEL

“I am a chiropractor in California. I was just terminated from my wonderful independent contract, 10 hour/week job. The company cited AB 5. I’ve had this job for 10 years. The job allowed me flexibility to take care of my three special-needs kids. Now it’s gone.”

#AB5STORIES



CATHLEEN

“The ability to work independently provides me as a single mother of multiple children with special needs flexibility to earn livable wages. Minimum wage, workman’s comp, paid leave, and other provisions in a traditional employee setting are the trade-offs for that schedule flexibility that I CHOOSE to not have by working independently. AB 5 does not protect the working middle class. It severely cripples it!”



#AB5STORIES

WILL

“I’m a freelance photographer that essentially now lost supplemental income because of AB 5.”

#AB5STORIES



MARY

“For the past several years I have put my Master’s degree to work doing online research and writing executive summaries that match with market and industry trends. I can do the summaries when available from my home computer (around my children’s school schedule) where and when I want. I get paid per summary and can choose how many I want to complete. This side “gig” had paid for my older children’s tuition in college. I have paid state and federal taxes on these earnings. This has now dried up as my employer (a small business) does not want to deal with California’s convoluted AB 5 and why should they when there are 49 states with contractors to chose from. Not only am I out my earnings but CA will have to do without the taxes I paid on them as well.”



#AB5STORIES

TAMARA

“I am a Certified Shorthand Reporter licensed within the state of California. I have been an independent contractor for 35 years as well as run a small firm. This decision has been nothing short of devastating to myself and the professional reporters with whom I have had a wonderful business-to-business working relationship for years. The cumbersome expense, needless hours attaining business licenses, S-Corp filing, creating business banking accounts, as well as the unknown future of our profession is weighing quite heavily.”

#AB5STORIES



LLOYD

“As a tech startup owner. This law has been deviation to say the least. I have only been in business for 2 yrs and for the most part been very successful. When this law was announced all the contacts we had with multiple companies from all over the place instantly ended.”



#AB5STORIES

FREDINA

“I am a small owner operator (IC) AND I have worked for decades with hundreds of other small owner operators (ICs) in order to compete with the BIG Trucking companies in our field, AB 5 outlaws my ability to work with these “like” ICs rendering us powerless to compete and therefore making it impossible to remain profitable.”

#AB5STORIES



FREDERIC

“I am a professional photographer who shoots on a freelance and non-exclusive basis for magazines and corporations. My rates are based on the final usage of my images and I license them, after first publication, to other magazines worldwide directly or through my stock agencies. I still make money from images I created 35 years ago. The new AB 5 law is basically taking away the ownership of my copyright when I work for companies that are in the same line of business as me such as magazines with staff photographers or production houses.”



#AB5STORIES

ANONYMOUS

“My husband and I own a tiny wedding photography business, just the two of us. Industry standards dictate that we hire second shooters to assist the main photographer at weddings, and this is what clients expect. It provides a better quality end product. We hire second shooters from a pool of other available photographers (who own their own businesses, and do second shooting on the side to supplement their income) and each second shooter works for us a total of 2-6 days per year. We also sub-contract out a small handful of dates to “associate shooters” for days we are already booked, or for clients who need a lower price point. We rely on this income to stay afloat. As a tiny business, whose profit margins are very narrow, we simply cannot afford to make multiple people employees of our company.”

#AB5STORIES



LOUISE

“I am a band leader and we do small weddings, holiday parties, and birthday parties. I probably have only 5-10 musicians that I work with - but only a few days a month for a few hours- to put everyone on payroll. The cost of making everyone an employee is crippling and takes my entire profit per month. Also our corporate clients won't hire musicians from California anymore, and it is literally pushing the business out of state. I have had 4 bookings cancel and it's only January! This is money that we need as musicians to eat, pay rent and survive. It is literally forcing businesses and musicians out of California and is hurting us badly.”



#AB5STORIES

MICHELE

“I am a writer and I have had my primary client since 1997. I sometimes write as many as 230 pieces in a year for them. I have other clients, as well. I also write books (24, to date), maintain a website, and teach. Before I was offered my weekly columns back in 1997, I had to be vetted by the union. I needed to demonstrate skills that staff reports did not have. That got me the gig, but it is also one of the reasons I’d never be made an employee. At least as important as the income from this gig is the copyright that I retain. I repurpose my work in a variety of ways. I’m 70 years old and I have worked most of my life to shape my career as I want it. AB 5 puts me at risk of losing everything I’ve worked to create.”

#AB5STORIES



ELIZABETH

“AB 5 is a killer for small businesses who can’t afford to hire employees. I have had to increase my prices to compensate for this new law, which I know will hurt my business. The thought of closing my business is heartbreaking after the 5 years I’ve spent building it up.”



#AB5STORIES

MARY

“I am a sole proprietor entertainment artist. This bill greatly affects my ability to work as a contractor for other entertainers who need help at large events, and by my clients who hire me to entertain at fairs and festivals. California prides itself on its entertainment, it is a BIG tourist draw. This will curtail the industry. I’m hoping to increase my work to help support my family after my husband retires from law enforcement, and this bill may force me to move out of state, so I can get work.”

#AB5STORIES



KATE

“I have been freelancing as a social media manager for a year and a half and finally decided to file an LLC. My plan this year was to scale my business by contracting other social media managers to help me with my clients. This industry is very competitive, and I wanted to help other freelancers like myself make an honest living by doing remote work. With AB 5, I won't be able to grow my small business or help other freelancers earn an income.”



#AB5STORIES

DONNA

“I am a musician/band leader. Absorbing the costs of AB 5 will either put me out of business or I will have to pass the costs on to my musicians. They will now make 20-30% less on every show.”

#AB5STORIES



ACE

“I’m a character actor and variety entertainer. I’ve been a sole proprietor for decades. I’m losing business due to clients fearing they’ll do the wrong thing and end up with a steep penalty.”



#AB5STORIES

RYAN

“I am a Vietnamese interpreter in Los Angeles, CA. After graduating, I decided to pursue a career in the language industry to serve my community with language needs. Since then, I have been working as a freelance linguist to meet the language needs of thousands of Vietnamese speakers in CA and nationwide. As someone who only started working in this field a few years ago, the timing of AB 5 couldn't be worse. For me and my colleagues, we are not misclassified. We choose to be independent contractors. We exercise our rights to decide when and how we perform our service, whom we provide the service to, and how much we charge. The law has caused many of our companies and agencies that we have contracted with to ask us to become their employees or incorporated. Being employed is not possible for many of us due to the nature of our work. We need the flexibility to take on assignments as opportunities arise.”

#AB5STORIES



TAQIALDEEN

“I lost my side job, because of AB 5. I work as a nurse practitioner and the nature of our jobs in the private sector and small clinics makes it impossible to be an employee. You get paid a percentage of the revenue you generate and you pay for your malpractice insurance, benefits, and other expenses. This law is killing our opportunity of making a living in California.”



#AB5STORIES

JODIE

“I worked years to gain my skill and expertise as an American Sign Language Interpreter. It was my goal since I was 9 years old. At last, at the age of 46, I accomplished my goal and entered this amazing field. The ADA law requires the Deaf to receive our services for equal access. Our Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients dealt with a lack of service and many mandated companies/services such as hospitals refusing to give them their rightful access to clear communication even before AB 5. Now, thousands and thousands of California Deaf will not be serviced. On a personal note, I used to be an independent contractor for 3 agencies...within 2 weeks I have lost the ability to work with all 3. I have no way to provide for my family and that dream/goal I worked for is lost.”

#AB5STORIES



SYLVIA

“I am the Artistic Director of a small nonprofit opera company. We found out about AB 5 on Facebook during the holidays. We immediately went to an employment attorney to find out we had to comply with this new law. Since then we have been scrambling to be in compliance. But it will cost us \$10,000 (payroll, worker’s comp, insurance, contract changes, attorney fees, etc.) to switch from an independent contractor model to an employer/employer model. Our nonprofit doesn’t have this money, so I will need to personally pay for it. We have an August show coming up, and we are working to be in compliance in time. After that, we will not be able to sustain these costs and will most likely go dark or on hiatus. I founded the company 20 years ago, so this breaks my heart.”



#AB5STORIES

DANIEL

“I am a music teacher and professional opera singer. I’ve spent tens of thousands of dollars educating myself on how to be a great musician with teachers, schools, and opportunities. I was just in a show that took out our 22 piece orchestra and nearly cancelled the show all together because of this law. All vocalists and crew members signed our documents to keep the show going, but the fact that AB 5 just demolished artists in California is insulting to the arts community as a whole and extremely damaged our income.”

#AB5STORIES



DOUG

“As a musician, sound engineer and freelance technician I have already lost work due to AB 5. Being an independent contractor has been my business model for over 40 years. All of that grinds to a screeching halt with AB 5. I am well aware of the costs of having employees in the state of California, for 10 years I operated a retail business where I contribute my share of payroll taxes, observing labor laws, paid into SS and medicare etc etc. There is NO WAY I can afford to do that and there is no musical director that can afford to hire me under those same circumstances. This bill has adversely affected many of my associates who are now looking at moving out of state to continue working at the craft they devoted their lives to. And I am now one of them as well.”



#AB5STORIES

ANGEL

“AB 5 has already lost me 5 contracts in the first 4 weeks of the year.”

#AB5STORIES



MANNY

“I own a small translation agency in California. I work for CA clients and outside of CA. In any given year I work with 50-70 independent contractors in 30+ languages. Half or so of these IC's are based in CA. As of the passage of AB 5, other than work I had scheduled at the end of 2019, I am no longer booking CA-based IC's. There is far too much uncertainty surrounding this law. If I calculate incorrectly, I could get hit with penalties and back-wages that will bankrupt me. I am continuing to work with all non-CA based IC's to perform work going forward and cutting back on work that requires on-site interpreters in CA. I am looking to incorporate out of state and, if need be, move myself and my operations out of state.”



#AB5STORIES

ELLIE

“This law is ruining my business. I should have the right to operate as a sub-contractor.”

#AB5STORIES



RUTH

“I am starting an freelance writing career. I am limited to pitching blogs and articles as many companies are blacklisting California writers due to AB 5.”



#AB5STORIES

ASHLEE

“This has affected my business significantly and I do not want to be an employee. I can no longer claim much needed deductions on things I must purchase on my own for work that the company doesn’t provide. I am getting paid 5% less as a result of AB 5 in California.”

#AB5STORIES



CHRISTINE

“I am a freelance editor, and my two major clients dropped me so now I have no income at the moment. I am also an adjunct teacher, but it pays low and also quarterly. I do not have income now for food and rent.”



#AB5STORIES

SABRINA

“I am a freelance transcriptionist by trade living in Massachusetts and because my main client was located in California, I am feeling the effect of AB 5 and had lost all of my income when that one client decided I was a liability and an unnecessary chance they couldn’t take.”

#AB5STORIES



MELISSA

“I am a translator turned librarian looking for a full-time job with benefits in California. I have a lot of qualifications, but these jobs are competitive and not so easy to get. It is not very practical for me to relocate to another state for personal reasons. Before AB 5, I could easily work as a translator and independent information management professional and pay the bills while trying to secure one of the jobs that those who support AB 5 seem to think I can just walk out the door and get. Now my clients won't take the risks inherent to AB5 of working with a sole proprietor, so I have to either throw \$1,000+ at forming a business structure that few would disagree is excessively complicated for my current situation and future goals, or simply not make money until I get the job I'm trying to get (or settle for a job that I don't want).”



#AB5STORIES

MARIA

“As a nurse case manager in California, I have been affected by this bill. As a consequence of this bill, I have lost my ability to work as an independent contractor. I have been working as an independent contractor for 20 years. I have turned down conventional job offers in the past because, as an independent contractor, the flexibility and freedom have allowed me flexible hours, working with different Insurances and very good pay. This bill is impacting our lives.”

#AB5STORIES



VALERIE

“AB 5 upended my retirement! I’m just 56, and now I’m literally banned from consulting in my field. Ironically, Governor Newsome announces California will be a “No Kill” animal shelter state- something I’ve worked on at the local level for ten years. I have tons of no kill shelter experience and I laid out plans to consult to help produce improvements, efficiencies and action plans to help my clients succeed. That’s all gone now. In order to consult, I have to start my own company and pay California \$800 a year.”



#AB5STORIES

JOEBERT

“I am a physical therapist working in Home health for the last 10 years under a 1099 format. AB 5 suddenly made that model against the law . What will happen is home health agencies will hire 1 or 2 full time PT s and effectively eliminate the ability of the other remaining 8 to earn more income on a 10 sample field and FORCED to find work as a full time employee.”

#AB5STORIES



JONATHAN

“I operate a specialty musical instrument making firm that makes instruments I invented. My unusual (proprietary) creations are heard in thousands of movie/TV soundtracks and are owned by hundreds of media composers all over the world! AB 5 is what I can best describe as highly cruel legislative terror to the creative, independent, and entrepreneurial middle class spirit California is famous for! My heart is broken by the mayhem it is causing to the good faith players it affects! I know that my own peace of mind, well being, and sound sleep has been disrupted in profound and even health threatening ways! At the very least, AB 5 has caused me to take a disproportionate amount of time to restructure my business (when I need to be productive and shipping!) and let go of any short run occasional contractors that, even if properly LLC/ incorporated, may not pass the ABC test, and very few can! The down time and expense this is causing is going to take a lot of time and capital to recover!”



#AB5STORIES

LORI

“I have spent the last ten years building a sustainable small business in music production, sound design, and audio engineering. As of January 1st, 95% of my jobs disappeared overnight. I no longer know how I will support my 3 year old son and 6 month old daughter. I’ve lost all faith in the State of California.”

#AB5STORIES



MEGAN

“I am a middle-class, independent software developer writing code for a living. AB 5 is an ABSOLUTE DISASTER for independent IT pros in my industry. Just lost a client and business relationships I spent many years cultivating that I depend on to feed my family.”



#AB5STORIES

LOGAN

“I am a Native Californian, with four young children to raise. After much struggle and education, in addition to eventually obtaining full-time employment as a medical transcriptionist commencing in 1996, I depended on independent contractor work to make ends meet. Since AB 5, the companies I contracted with have severed ties. I’ve found no transcription companies willing to work with California transcriptionists, and I now have no means to replace my lost income.”

#AB5STORIES



BERNARD

“I’ve spent the last 5 years slowly building up a freelance writing career, and finally went full-time freelance in 2018, and moved to California in mid-2019. Miraculously, I found enough work to be able to afford to live in Los Angeles with essentially no outside support. However, since AB 5 went into effect, my biggest client is unable to utilize me for daily news reporting, since that would easily put me past the 35 submission cap that was written into the bill. I’m lucky in that I have two hour-based jobs, so I’m not completely dead in the water, but regardless I’ve lost about 1/3rd of my work, which will result in a loss of \$10,000-\$15,000 lost over this next year. I moved to California to pursue the classic west coast dream, and instead I’m frightened for my life and livelihood. Now countless freelancers like myself are suffering. I’ve witnessed major media companies post freelance job callouts, which now include language saying essentially that California freelancers need not apply. What’s a powerless writer to do?”



#AB5STORIES

MARY

“I am a legal transcriptionist and lost my job with SpeakWrite almost 3 weeks ago because of AB 5. I depend on this income to supplement my Social Security benefits.”

#AB5STORIES



ED

“I would like to express my concern over the recently-passed Assembly Bill AB 5. My husband and I opened a small “mom-n-pop” business in 2008 offering massage and facials. When requests became too much for the two of us to handle, we brought in Contractors to work with our clients. Each of these Contractors work on average less than 10 hours per week and fill in their other time doing much of the same with other businesses. This type of work has given them the freedom to work when they want and how much they want. For businesses such as ours, we would not be able to keep our doors open if we had to hire employees, which would mean another fiery death to another small business owner. The Contractors we currently work with would not be interested in making \$16 an hour versus \$45 to \$55 an hour and losing all freedom to explore other interests.”



#AB5STORIES

AMY

“This law is putting me out of work. I’ve been a professional face painter for 20 years, paid my taxes and supported my family with the income from this career. AB 5 threatens my livelihood and my ability to affordably live in California.”

#AB5STORIES



ILDIKO

“As an independent contractor / sole proprietor I have been a freelance translator and interpreter in California for 20 years, member of the American Translators Association. It took me 20 years of hard work to build up my clientele. The effects of AB 5 will be devastating on our industry and on me personally. My 50+ agency clients will not hire me as an employee and I will no longer be contracted to service my clients as an independent contractor unless I get incorporated or leave California. The financial and administrative burden is tremendous. I received cut-off notices from my clients just before Christmas, and have already lost most of my livelihood overnight.”



#AB5STORIES

ANDY

“I am a professional musician, homeowner, and married father of 2. I currently perform in several bands and lead 2 bands. The income I make is extremely important in subsidizing the out of control costs to live in this beautiful state. I also have an IT business and cater to government, municipalities, enterprise and small businesses IT needs. This law will completely wipe out the income I make performing in my bands as well as the dozens of musicians I hire for the different groups I run. I am now finding this law is having a negative effect on my IT business. With a swipe of a pen Sacramento is forcing me to make very tough decisions involving selling my home and leaving the state.”

#AB5STORIES



HOA

“I’m an award-winning journalist and writer who gave up my full-time job to focus on my 3-year-old and 1-year-old. Amid being a stay-at-home parent, I began freelancing to maintain my career. When my 3-year-old started preschool a couple months ago, I knew my freelance career was no longer just “extra money” for my family of four. To send my son to preschool part-time (3 days a week), it’s \$1200 a month, which is competitive for my neighborhood. If I had to give up my freelance career, which AB 5 mandates, and get a full-time in-house job, I’d have to put my daughter in the same daycare facility for \$1700 a month. The total cost of daycare would be \$3000 a month for both my children if I couldn’t maintain the flexibility of a 1099 career. More importantly, the thought of spending less time with my children during their most formative development breaks my heart. All of my full-time in-house job offers are 45 minutes away from my home, with traffic included, I’d only see my kids for an hour a day on weekdays. I became a parent because I want to be with my kids.”



#AB5STORIES

REBECCA

“I just finished 4 years of schooling and started working in December as a scopist and transcript transcriptionist. I chose this career path to work from home so I could be there for my children when they needed and not have to pay for childcare. Now, I’m losing work and may have to find an away from home job. Meaning less time raising my children and having to pay someone else to do so.”

#AB5STORIES



JOY

“I’ve worked as a contract Speech Language Pathologist for 12 years in California. It’s given me great compensation and amazing work flexibility. I contract by preference and choice. I was just given an ultimatum to either go or take a drastic pay cut to become an employee in 10 days. I’m a single mom, and last May I was finally able to buy a house. Now I won’t be able to afford my mortgage because of AB 5. Also, my son is a senior and was just accepted to Parsons for fashion design. He’s really talented and it’s the school of his dreams. I won’t be able to help him, and he even said tonight that he’ll work to help me instead of going to Parsons. Our lives have been upended overnight.”



#AB5STORIES

MARY

“As an independent contractor, I work part-time to help my family make ends meet, while I homeschool my learning disabled child. I used to make twice as much as a part-time contractor, as I did working 5 days a week as a W-2 employee. I say ‘used to’ because I typically earn about \$40k per year. By the end of January, I’ve lost almost \$30K in contracts because I’m an entertainer and I perform for the clients of clients, which isn’t allowed per the B2B exemptions attached to AB 5. I get health insurance through my husband’s work, I pay for disability insurance, and I pay taxes from my business earnings... well, I used to pay a decent amount of taxes. I am being forced to move out of California, so my business can survive. Luckily, my husband is retiring from law enforcement soon so we can, but many of my small business brethren are trapped here or are literally ending up on the streets because they lost too much work and can’t afford to pay their bills anymore.”

#AB5STORIES



ELIZABETH

“I am a working mother and arts educator who is no longer able to work for myself due to the passage of AB5. This legislation has deprived me of my ability to work on a contract basis, which is the basis of all of my business. I just lost a contract for a summer teaching job that I had been working on for a year.”



#AB5STORIES

PAULA

“I have built a successful career as a freelance violinist and proofreader/editor/writer for over 20 years in California. I loathed the three years I spent in a “traditional” job setting after leaving school, and I have thrived on the freedom to earn a living in the way that works best for me. Since last September, a number of small community theater companies that had for decades hired me as needed (once or twice a year for 2-week performance runs of musicals) have simply stopped hiring musicians at all and elected to use pre-recorded music tracks going forward. Companies offering short editing or writing contracts over the web, once a great source of work for me, are now simply specifying that applicants submitting proposals for work cannot live in California. The loss of income hurts my ability to sustain the life I have built so carefully – and the loss of live music to our communities breaks my heart.”

#AB5STORIES



RICHARD

“My wife Monica came here from Brazil and became a citizen. She studied and become a massage therapist. Learning medical terminology, body mechanics, ethics, anatomy and physiology.

After many years of practice she had an injury then she became an instructor. She taught mostly enter city kids just out of high school. Due to government cut backs they laid off her teaching job. Most of her students came from gang environment. She not only taught them the massage principles she taught them how to promote themselves and many got job before graduation. Just before she was laid off she was voted most inspirational teacher, not only in her department but other students voted for her also.

Shortly after that she became a Portuguese translator. She was able to work from home which is good for the environment . Her income was over three times what the minimum wage in California. As an independent contractor she just lost her job to another government bill, AB 5.”



#AB5STORIES

JONATHAN

“I’m a professional freelance musician, magician, balloon twister, and producer. AB5 has made producing a work of art immensely more difficult than it should be. The art and projects I’d like to build are now being brought to a halt due to this law and I’m forced to seriously consider moving out of state.”

#AB5STORIES



LIZ

“I’ve lost over half my work as a national photography stylist.”



#AB5STORIES

BARBARA

“I’m a proofreader. Nearly all proofreading is done online on a freelance basis. Competition is fierce and it’s hard to get clients, but I did it. I was thrilled being able to choose what editing jobs I was best suited for, and to work as much or as little as I wanted. Californians need not apply for any of these jobs thanks to AB 5. Not only can I not work in my chosen career, but all the time and money I spent on reference materials and learning different style guides is wasted. While I can do 35 jobs a year under AB 5, a “job” may be a one-page resume. There are online clearing houses for these types of jobs, but they certainly aren’t employers, though California treats them that way. So Californians are now forbidden from bidding on these jobs.”

#AB5STORIES



ERICA

“I am unable to freelance as an ESL teacher online because the companies no longer wish to partner with California. Let the free market exist, it’s better for people. This hurts many workers. Put the “free” back in freelance.”



#AB5STORIES

LEONARD

“I’m a freelance video cameraman and AB 5 is simply an ill considered sledgehammer of a law written by people who don’t understand how freelancers work.”

#AB5STORIES



SARAH

“AB 5 has completely decimated my livelihood as both a highly experienced interpreter for the deaf, and as a freelance writer. Repealing this law is the only way forward: The right to work as an individual wishes is a basic, foundational freedom which this law has stripped from us. AB 5 has essentially made the performance of our vocations illegal at worst, and making it impossible to provide for our families at best.”



#AB5STORIES

MARIA

“I am a 1099 contract CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist). AB 5 mandates converting all 1099 contractors to W2, especially those like myself, who have been working happily for multiple employers on a regular basis. I am happy with my current work arrangement, but AB 5 does not give me that option anymore.”

#AB5STORIES



AMORY

“AB 5 inhibits essential workers from working in California. Doctors are exempt from this law as if they are the only essential workers in a hospital. If Nurses, CRNAs, and Nurse Practitioners were exempt, Californians would have the quality care they deserve. 1099s provide the means to meet the healthcare needs of Californians.”



#AB5STORIES

KATHY

“There’s a reason I have been a freelance reporter forever. If I wanted to be an employee, I would have gone to work in court or at a business entity. I’d rather work for myself. AB 5 doesn’t give that option to freelance reporters like me across California.”

#AB5STORIES



EDUARDO

“I am an aspiring court interpreter and translator. AB 5 has made it difficult for people like me to secure entry level positions. Since AB 5 prohibits independent contractors, all new positions are now being filled exclusively by people with more experience.”



#AB5STORIES

JENNIFER

“I teach after-school classes and I just moved to Orange County at the end of last year. I had a program lined up with a local school but after AB 5 was passed, they had to cancel my program. Now because of COVID-19, I haven’t been able to work this entire year. I’m afraid that if AB 5 still exists after the pandemic, I still won’t be able to find work when kids return to school.”

#AB5STORIES



VINCENT

“I am a lifelong musician. I don’t think people understand that in order to cobble together a living in music, you take on a variety of jobs. Bands don’t get paid that well. Band leaders can’t afford payroll taxes, or much of anything for that matter. We’re not Uber or Lyft you know. We still pay our taxes, we just want our independence. AB 5 makes me feel like lawmakers have no clue about how we operate.”



#AB5STORIES

SUSANNA

“I have been a sole proprietor since 2010 and it was hard enough getting clients to hire me independently instead of through an agency. I work as a freelance patternmaker, among other things. Working through an agency is asking me to return to the earnings I had when I was just starting out in the industry, back in 1993! Agencies don’t cover my healthcare, I still had to pay for that out of my own pocket. Agencies don’t care about me. The fashion industry needs freelancers. Designers cannot afford to keep a full staff year-round for a seasonal industry! When work was tight, I even worked a couple hours delivering food because I could! Working freelance gave me the freedom to build a small business and a name for myself in sustainable fashion while also paying the bills just making patterns. California has been home to my family for four generations. Unfortunately, I had to move out of state because I could no longer afford to live there.”

#AB5STORIES



DONNA

“AB5 does not allow flexibility for artists and arts organizations. As an artist, I want to be able to perform for multiple theaters and venues. As an administrator at an arts organization, I have been forced to limit our productions and the number of artists we hire. We have an annual budget of just over \$100,000 and after complying with AB 5, we now have 21 employees, most of whom work less than 20 hours a year for us. We pay far above union wages, over \$100 an hour and have survived in the nonprofit arts world for over 20 years bringing professional live theater to students. We are pro-worker and progressive thinkers and this law offers no benefits for anyone we work with.”



#AB5STORIES

KATHERINE

“I’ve been a freelance court reporter for nearly 30 years; I work for 10 or 15 different agencies by MY choice, and do not want to be considered an employee of any of them. I have total control over my own schedule and fees. If I were to become an employee, the employer would dictate what I was paid, when I could take time off, et cetera. AB 5 takes my choice away from me.”

#AB5STORIES



DEBRA

“I lost a writing contract that I had for four years due to AB 5.”



#AB5STORIES

KATHLEEN

“As an independent contracting court stenographer, I will be financially impacted if AB 5 is not repealed. I do not want to become an employee of the agencies that I contract with. Becoming an employee of these agencies would not help me one bit. I would be paid less if I became an “employee”. I enjoy my independent contractor status and like to make my own decisions about who I work for and when I work.”

#AB5STORIES



AMY

“Having this AB 5 in place will completely change how I work and when I work. I am a notary public, commissioned by the State of California. I perform notary acts for the general public and loan signings for title companies. I choose when and where I work. With these uncertain times set before us today, people like me need the flexibility to be there for our children, assisting with their distance learning and working around their schedule. I choose when I work, I choose how much I work! Why are our choices being taken away?”



#AB5STORIES

JUSTINE

“I have been a freelance web designer and developer for 20 years. My independence is crucial to my happiness. It gives me flexibility and allows me to exist outside of the hierarchy of organizations. I negotiate my contracts and arrive at a mutually beneficial relationship with my clients. Cultivation of working relationships within my field allows me to stay current in my industry, grow my professional network, and have the opportunity to work on large projects. I don’t want to be an employee for any entity. AB 5 is an attack on my lifestyle, my dignity, and my freedom. It is offensive to my core.”

#AB5STORIES



ERIK

“I work as an independent film-maker making documentaries, music videos and commercials. Every project utilizes a new group of professionals and also independents. The burden of complying with AB 5 makes it difficult to work while providing no value to us. I also work as an independent web designer and have lost work from potential out of state clients who don't need a W2 employee for short term project work.”



#AB5STORIES

MARY BETH

“I need and choose to be a freelance worker. I have lost 2 jobs because of this cruel law and have had to go on SNAP and MedCal because I can not make enough money to eat or take care of myself. Next step I will have to move out of CA if AB 5 is not repealed.”

#AB5STORIES



LAURA

“This is not something that only affects rideshare companies. This bill has ruined the businesses of so many local variety entertainers. My colleagues and I are children’s entertainers such as storytellers singers, comedians, jugglers, magicians, balloon artists, face painters, etc. Most of us don’t subcontract for just one company like the drivers for Lyft and Uber. We all own our own companies, mostly small mom and pop companies, and will subcontract each other as the need arises. AB 5 makes it almost impossible for many of us to work with each other. AB 5 is way too vague to apply to only the companies that the authors claim that they apply to. Instead of protecting the individual worker, it’s destroying thousands of small businesses. Many variety entertainers had to close their businesses even before the pandemic happened because of the effects of AB 5.”



#AB5STORIES

CANDICE

“I’m a wedding videographer and run a small company. Not being able to hire subcontractors 5-8 days a year would cost my business \$25,00-\$40,000 a year.”

#AB5STORIES



TALIA

“My company is a booking agency for performing artists who have a heart to service senior communities. All outside entertainment and fitness individuals that visit senior living solution centers are independent contractors. AB 5 limits our seniors’ ability to enjoy zumba, magic, music, karaoke, dance and more artistic expression!”



#AB5STORIES

AUDREY

“As an active duty military spouse I struggle to maintain my career due to my husband’s constant permanent changes in station. AB 5 hurts me even more because it takes away my ability to work as a freelancer and the ability to continue my career, regardless of my husbands military service.”

#AB5STORIES



JESSICA

“I started my own mobile yoga studio business over 6 years ago and I would not have been able to grow and hire highly trained and experienced yoga teachers if not for their status as independent contractors. That’s how they wanted to be hired. It was their choice, as well as mine, to be able to grow this business over 6 1/2 years in Los Angeles. Ab 5 is taking away our freedom to work the way that best fits our lifestyle. What gives someone else the right to step in and say that’s not right? No laws are being broken, no crime is being committed, just honest work on our terms to support our family and our community.”



#AB5STORIES

JOHN

“I have worked for myself for 35 out of the past 50 years. Some years I receive as many as fifteen 1099s. It’s impossible to be an “employee” for each client and garner any benefits. I’d still have to get my own health insurance and how would I collect other “benefits”?”

#AB5STORIES



MARY

“It is mind boggling that thanks to AB 5, we as small businesses do not have the flexibility to use independent contractors to meet peak business demands. Hiring full time employees and maintaining a full payroll during seasonal slow periods or when demand for our services is low will put me out of business. I will need to move out of state where the business climate is more business friendly to survive.”



#AB5STORIES

MARCUS

“I am a video editor of 40 years making 60K-\$115K/ year.
I’ve only made \$4,200 through August 2020.”

#AB5STORIES



CHRISTINE

“AB 5 has destroyed two careers for me – one as a legal document preparer and the other as a freelance web designer. Both businesses took me years to build up clientele.”



#AB5STORIES

NEIL

“I work for over 150 different people each year. To be an employee and fill out paperwork for that many is maddening. AB 5 was meant for other job types, not the true freelancers.”

#AB5STORIES



MARY ANNE

“As a licensed Speech Pathologist my livelihood depends on contracts. I contract directly with Kaiser Permanente to help with their consumers at my office.”



#AB5STORIES

KATHRYN

“I work as an independent transcriptionist and I cannot work in the state of California any longer because the company I contract with is unwilling to work with California contractors due to AB 5.”

#AB5STORIES



SABRINA

“I was working as a dresser for various small theater companies before COVID and saw jobs drying up and companies going under due to AB 5. The idea wasn't a bad one, but the execution is killing the livelihoods of independent contractors all over the state, especially in the arts.”



#AB5STORIES

STEPHANIE

“AB 5 has been absolutely destructive for me and my fellow American Sign Language Interpreters. Our deaf clientele depend on equal access and AB 5 has made it nearly impossible to make sure there are enough interpreters out there to be able to provide that access.”

#AB5STORIES



DESIREE

“I teach with VIPKID and do not want to be an employee. I chose this job as an educated adult because the job works well for me and what I am looking for. Being an employee would change that and I would lose the freedoms I have and wanted as an independent contractor. I will lose my income from this job if the law goes through and my work is not considered exempt.”



#AB5STORIES

CAROL

“I am a talent agent and have lost many out of town clients who routinely came to California to shoot their ads. They cancelled their plans because of AB5. New and young talent can no longer work at small local theaters to learn their craft so they can one day join the union (SAG). The small theaters have gone out of business because of AB 5.”

#AB5STORIES



JENNIFER

“AB 5 is screening over so many people who want to be independent contractors. I went to a trade school to become a freelance court reporter. If I wanted to be an employee, I’d go work for the court system. I’m now having to jump through hoops to stay afloat.”



#AB5STORIES

LYNNE

“I am a 70 year old independent consultant for hospital clinical systems. I usually contract with consulting firms, but now many of the companies I have worked with for years will no longer hire independent consultants from California because of AB 5. Many projects are short term and they don't want to hire people as employees, so they just hire them from other states. At my age it is too late to train for another type of job. AB 5 has ruined my income.”

#AB5STORIES



SYLVIA

“Our small nonprofit arts organization (under \$75,000 budget) has been devastated by AB 5. The musician exemption did not help us. I run the company and I had to donate \$10,000 of my own money to try to comply this year. We are now closed down until 2021, partly because of covid, but mostly because we cannot afford to hire contractors as employees, even for virtual work. Small businesses, especially ones like ours who contract people two weeks out of the year , should be exempt from AB 5. Otherwise, most will end up closing.”



#AB5STORIES

CORY

“I had to fire 8 hard working contractors this year and hire outside California. None of them wanted to be employees and were only working 6 to 8 hours a week for me at \$100 per hour.”

#AB5STORIES



ISAAC

“AB 5 threatens my ability to continue earning a great living. Due to medical issues, I am unable to have a set 9-5 schedule. I want to continue being an independent contractor!”



#AB5STORIES

ANNE

“I have been a professional independent contractor providing editorial and photography to motorsports magazines and websites for more than 40 years. Thanks to AB5, I no longer have a profession.”

#AB5STORIES



NICOLE

“I’ve been a freelance writer, developing training materials for nurses and nursing students, for over 10 years. As a result of AB 5, the business that I’ve worked so hard to develop, has been completely decimated. Companies will no longer even consider hiring me, simply because I live in California. I no longer have the means to help support my family. This law has hurt thousands of hard-working professionals like me, who prefer to freelance instead of working at a traditional job.”



#AB5STORIES

KIRK

“When the worst of the pandemic is over, I will have no work to go back to because of AB 5. Each of my approximately fifty clients only hire me a few times a year. They don’t consider themselves or don’t want to become employers. They do not take advantage of me and are too afraid of fines to allow me to work as an independent contractor for them anymore. This has been my successful livelihood for forty years.”

#AB5STORIES



JILL

“I need to be able to continue as an independent contractor because of my own chronic health issues and now as a caregiver to two elderly, ill parents. I was a Vice President of several corporations and I would not have left a staff position with benefits unless I absolutely needed to – and I needed to!”



#AB5STORIES

DAVID

“I am learning to be a copywriter and AB 5 hurts my ability to begin a career for me. Those of us who don’t want to work for an employer but have the flexibility to schedule around our families needs should be able to make that decision. I have insurance and benefits through my wife’s employer.”

#AB5STORIES



SHERENE

“My small business will not survive this new law. The pandemic on top of this will be the death of my creative businesses.”



#AB5STORIES

PATRICIA

“I am a dance educator, choreographer and independent scholar. I will not be able to survive financially doing the work I have trained in my entire life and built my career upon if this law is not repealed.”

#AB5STORIES



DEBBIE

“AB 5 has terrorized me since the beginning of this year. It also costs me an additional 30% increase in taxes and insurance for people who work with me 2 - 10 hours a month. This 30% has come out of my small salary to operate my 501(c)(3). It's money that is needed for essentials in my household.”



#AB5STORIES

MONIKA

“Our business, a small press, is directly affected by this law, and we have already had to permanently close our brick-and-mortar arts center and gallery due to AB 5 statewide and county-wide. The AB 5 law could shut the other part of our business down as we are relying on independent contractors in a nonprofit operation without employees, as mandated by our nonprofit status. We lost most of our income source for artists, musicians, lecturers, writers, and more. We had to close our bookstore, too. The community of Angels Camp lost a fine arts center and the people are all grieving about it. But we could not sustain a business in this climate. Our Visitors Bureau had to move out of the historic downtown due to drastic cuts. AB 5 will drive a nail in the coffin.”

#AB5STORIES



TRINA

“The virtual ESL teaching company would no longer hire Californians, not even my friend who is a credentialed, master level teacher. They were told to reapply if moved!”



#AB5STORIES

MIKE

“AB 5 harms my small IT consulting business. It makes our CA clients less likely to hire us for projects and it makes it difficult to collaborate with other small IT companies on projects. We are professionals and we don’t want to be somebody’s W2 employee.”

#AB5STORIES



KEN

“I am 70 years old, retired and do Uber and Lyft part time to supplement my social security income. As an independent worker, I can make my own hours around my doctors appointments and other appointments. I work when I want to work and am not confined to hours that I would have to work by a company.”



#AB5STORIES

PAMELA

“The loss of Lyft and Uber in their present form, as well as the food delivery services we now enjoy due to the provisions of AB 5, will make it very difficult for those of us who cannot drive for whatever reason. As totally blind people, my partner and I will find it much harder to live our lives independently in a small city like Visalia where there is less than adequate transportation.”

#AB5STORIES



MARISSA

“My freelancing career as a stay at home mom is officially done. No one wants to hire me any longer simply because I live in California. This bill has made it extremely hard to provide for my family. I enjoyed have the opportunity to work a flexible schedule, receive fair pay and was never taken advantage of in this industry.”



#AB5STORIES

LEAH

“AB 5 had single-handedly destroyed my wedding photography business that I have had for the past 12 years. I run a high-volume company that utilizes freelance wedding photographers who are mostly stay at home moms that want to make some extra money on the weekends every now and then. Not only do my photographers not want to become employees, but making all of my photographers employees would be impossible financially.”

#AB5STORIES



PAT

“I am a freelance writer and I know several writers who have lost work. I have some employers/publications who don’t want to deal with CA residents. We do not resemble employees in any way! We work for several outlets and choose our hours.”



#AB5STORIES

GRANT

“If AB 5 continues, I will no longer be able to support myself financially. As a concert pianist and piano teacher, I thrive on performances where I am hired as an independent contractor and in the educational setting. I am often called upon as a specialist to help at local public schools.”

#AB5STORIES



GAIL

“I already have a job with benefits, but because of AB 5 there are side gigs like transcription work I used to do but now I can't. If I wanted another job with benefits I would have gotten one. Leave gig jobs alone.”



#AB5STORIES

LISA

“As a result of AB 5, the freelance career i have built for 10+ years is being ruined. i have gone from making a comfortable living to making crumbs. Clients tell me they won’t run the risk of working with California freelancers as a result of AB 5. Other agencies simply list “CA writers need not apply” in their job ads as a result of AB 5.”

#AB5STORIES



DAVE

“I have lost 70% of my business. I am an entertainer at weddings, company parties and birthday parties and all three of those events require a professional wedding planner or party planner. None of those businesses will ever hire a freelance entertainer like myself.”



#AB5STORIES

GREG

“I’m an operations manager at a San Diego business. Due to AB 5 we were forced to let go of 20% of our workers that were independent contractors. We couldn’t afford to hire any of them as employees and only maintained the employees we already had.”

#AB5STORIES



SUSAN

“I do not want to be forced out of the state in where I have lived since birth because I can not earn a living! On 8/21/20, I was asked to surrender high level credentials in a specialized national industry that is no longer offering work in CA because of AB-5. I’ve worked in this industry and held these premium credentials since 2005!”



#AB5STORIES

TAMARA

“I can no longer (legally) teach the neighborhood kids piano lessons after school or play the piano for the church down the road twice a month unless the parents and/or church hire me as an employee. Filing a 1099 as an independent contractor in addition to my full time employment W-2 was an extra step in the tax filing process, but at least I could still have that “side gig” and provide a service for our very rural community.”

#AB5STORIES



MONICA

“I am a deposition reporter licensed by the State of California for over 35 years. I have never been an employee. I work for about 20 agencies. Anyone can hire me. It would be impossible to be an employee.”



#AB5STORIES

ERIC

“My wife court reports college classes for deaf students and works as an independent contractor. She loves her job, does not feel taken advantage of by the agencies that she works for and she is completely happy with this style of employment. If this is not repealed, her entire industry and her livelihood could disappear.”

#AB5STORIES



JENNIFER

“AB 5 has made it so I cannot supplement my income by refereeing youth basketball or work other odd jobs that helped my family get by.”



#AB5STORIES

JOSSLYN

“This does not make sense for court reporters/stenographers. In 26 and a half years I have been a sole proprietor, never an employee of an agency. I work on average for 57 different agencies each year.”

#AB5STORIES



MELODY

“I work as a court reporter for lots of different agencies. There’s no way to make us employees and we’ve always worked as independent contractors. This bill is making it very difficult for us to do our jobs, which in turn slows down the whole legal process as court reporters are the ones who provide the written record for all court cases.”



#AB5STORIES

BRYCE

“I run a Youth Musical Theatre Company that gives over 1,400 families a chance to do something other than sports. I employ many local artists who make their living by booking “gig” style jobs and having to absorb their payroll taxes will destroy not only their livelihood, but will force me to close my doors.”

#AB5STORIES



JEREMY

“As a freelance film and television professional for more than 30 years in California, AB 5 is now making it almost impossible for me to work in this industry.”



#AB5STORIES

LINDA

“I am now a resident of Texas. I had recently quit my job to become an independent contractor as a Recreation Therapist. That was taken from me by AB 5. We decided to leave California instead!”

#AB5STORIES



STEVE

“I am a professional musician of 50 years. AB 5 is threatening me into an early retirement and relocation. Music will be a just hobby not a profession.”



#AB5STORIES

KATHLEEN

“AB 5 will effectively close down all community theaters in California. These community theaters already run 90% on volunteers, however set builders, sound designers, musicians, and costume designers all need a small stipend. My company has been around 38 years and has paid small gas and travel stipends and paid the appropriate taxes. We are a great benefit to the arts community in Pleasanton and Livermore, California. Please dont shut us down.”

#AB5STORIES



CHRIS

“AB 5 destroyed the livelihoods of all 9 independent property managers in my company. Although I was able to replace them with 14 employees, each employee earns less than 1/2 of what the independent managers earned.

4 of them lost their homes and the other 5 are still struggling. They cannot afford their lifestyle on employee wages.”



#AB5STORIES

GABRIELA

“Because of AB 5, I lost my job as an independent tutor and Spanish teacher for homeschool families.”

#AB5STORIES



ANDY

“I have been a freelance musician in California for 40 years. As of January 1, 2020, under AB-5 it is illegal for me to pursue my profession. This law has effectively brought my 40-year professional musician career to a halt.”



#AB5STORIES

CLAUDIA

“I’m a professional translator for over 25 years and I was severely impacted by this law. My clients stopped working with California’s professionals and are sending jobs to other states and countries. I do not want to be an employee, I want to remain independent and choose my hours and projects. I’m 53 year old and can’t compete with younger people in the job market, nor do I want to face a 2-hour commute each way to be locked in a company’s building from 9 to 5. I am also preparing to bring my 90 year old mother to live with me after my dad’s passing this past May, so I need to work from home. There are so many reasons to remain independent. We need to be able to choose how to work.”

#AB5STORIES



KRICKET

“I am a stay-at-home mom who was doing digital dictation transcription while my daughter was in school so I could work flexible hours and still be available when needed for school/sports/doctor’s appts etc. I lost my position with both transcription companies that I was working for due to AB 5. I would still be working if I lived in any other state.”



#AB5STORIES

KRISTINE

“I worked as an independent contractor for 15 years in the State of California. It allowed me to work around my children’s schedule. Since I was able to work from home, I was able to be a constant positive light in my children’s upbringing. When AB 5 passed that opportunity was taken away from me. The company I contracted with, opted to not continue doing business in California. I’m now unemployed and still looking for a job outside of the home.”

#AB5STORIES



DEBRA

“I was a part time workout instructor sub. I didn’t make more than a couple thousand a year. It just doesn’t make sense for me to do this as an employee and it’s very hard to work on this basis.”



#AB5STORIES

GINA

“As a professional musician who plays in multiple regional orchestras this bill is killing us and our organizations. Regional groups don’t have the money to take on employees. There are a lot of professional musicians who aren’t going to get in to the Los Angeles Philharmonic or other similar level orchestras and we are struggling to make a living with our art.”

#AB5STORIES



MARC

“I’ve been a self-employed graphic artist for over thirteen years. I work from my own office. I work to the terms of my own contract. I make a good living. But now I’ve lost clients and am having a hard time signing new ones because, even though I’m technically exempt from AB5, companies are finding it easier to enact blanket “no independent contractor” policies than risk running afoul of the law. They just “don’t want to take the chance.”



#AB5STORIES

KATHY

“I’m choosing to be an independent contractor court reporter. This allows me the flexibility to help care for my elderly parents when needed. I cannot help care for my parents while being an employee.”

#AB5STORIES



KELLY

“I am a music therapist for kids with severe disabilities. I used to work for 2 different agencies and 3 charter schools. AB 5 took away art/music therapy for disabled kids. Not to mention the fact that my job is lost.”



#AB5STORIES

HILARY

“I had to dismantle my business which serves adults with special needs after AB 5 (especially combined with covid) made it unfeasible for me to continue operating in a way that was optimal and working for my clients, for my contractor, and for me. A win-win-win turned into a lose, lose, lose. Very sad.”

#AB5STORIES



SUSAN

“As a radio journalist and podcast editor, I am not in any of the exemptions. This law is ruining my small business. One of my clients had to make me a W-2 employee. I don’t get paid more, but I lose my business write-offs for healthcare, expensive radio equipment and editing program fees. I lose my ability to invest in small business investment accounts for retirement. I have to pay into unemployment and disability, two systems I cannot use because I have multiple clients.”



#AB5STORIES

VERONICA

“I am a licensed certified shorthand reporter and am currently working as a freelance deposition reporter. Therefore, I am and have chosen to be an independent contractor. AB 5 will take away that freedom from me and will make it impossible for me to continue working in my profession in the manner I enjoy, which is having the freedom to work as much or as little as I want and when I want and still be there for my family.”

#AB5STORIES



LAURIE

“I am a disabled 57 year old Masters prepared RN. My physical limitations prevent me from working a schedule that I don’t manage myself. I have lost the contract for teaching due to AB 5. Prior, I had the ability to have improved QOL.”



#AB5STORIES

DENISE

“I can raise my kids, be home with my kids and work when my boys are busy all because I’m an independent contractor. The flexibility during the summer is also a game changer for our family. I can be home and not pay a care giver to “raise” my kids.”

#AB5STORIES



KAREN

“Before AB 5, I was regularly writing freelance articles for online publications. This work was stopped when AB 5 went into effect. I was told by one company they would no longer work with California freelancers because of AB 5. I never wanted to be an employee of any of these companies. I chose freelance writing to supplement my full-time job. As a single mother living in one of the most expensive areas of the state and the country, having extra income helped me pay bills, buy groceries and have extra money for anything fun. Now that this is gone, I struggle to make ends meet. On top of all this, I was laid off from my part-time job as a yoga instructor due to COVID-19. Freelance writing is something I can do from home, on my own time, and it’s my choice. I have no desire to unionize or be told how much I can earn.”



#AB5STORIES

LYNNE

“I am a freelance court reporter after having retired from being an official court reporter for Humboldt Superior Court. I decided I wanted to go into freelancing and be my own boss and not someone’s employee. AB 5 has thrown a wrench in my ability to make my own choices of when I work and who for. I want the freedom to make my own choices.”

#AB5STORIES



MARGARITA

“I am an Indie filmmaker, actor, content creator, youth mentor in film and am no longer working with K-12 URM in inner cities. Our youth from communities of color don't have a pipeline into the entertainment industry and we had created a way to share our knowledge in the film industry. For 5 years I worked with these amazing and talented youth and repealing AB 5 will continue to allow us to serve our communities who are historically kept out of the mainstream spaces.”



#AB5STORIES

ANNA

“As an interpreter, I literally lost HALF of my contracts overnight due to AB 5. It took away our freedom of choice to work as independent contractors.”

#AB5STORIES



CELESTE

“I’m a mobile massage therapist who has worked for multiple companies for 13+ years. It makes no sense to change our status from “contractors” to “employees” in this part of the massage therapy industry. It’s too complicated and creates a burden on us and the companies we work for. There are many cases where we may do one or two jobs per year for various companies, and the burden and complication of making us employees is just too much.”



#AB5STORIES

LISA

“As a court reporter for the past 20 years, this law inhibits my ability to work. Reporters must be independent contractors in order not to show a bias towards anybody that hired them. This law nullifies our ability to be unbiased and neutral parties to lawsuits.”

#AB5STORIES



NIKOLE

“I used to earn a nice living in CA, with an assortment of small contracts for work that I was able to do late at night, early in the morning, while sitting in doctors’ waiting rooms, etc. That additional income paid for my son’s therapy and for special dietary needs I have after 8 abdominal surgeries. During times when my health was strong, I took on more contracts and budgeted accordingly: I had always been able to pay my bills, take time off whenever I needed to, buy the platinum-level health care plan and live comfortably. AB 5 took all that away. Now, as an employee, I have to drag myself into work no matter how poorly I feel - further damaging my health. I’m also stuck with the health plan my employer has, which is a good three levels below what I had previously been able to purchase for myself. I no longer have tax write-offs for many of the things that I used to be able to write off as a contractor.”



#AB5STORIES

DEBORAH

“As a freelance court reporter in the state of California, I have great fears that this rule will virtually wipe out court reporting by stenography and this will do a great disservice to all litigants. I have been an independent contractor for over 22 years, having the right to choose what equipment I want, what kind of workload I want, what counties I want to cover, and what days I want to work. The list goes on. I also hire independent contractors to help me with my workload. Not anymore.”

#AB5STORIES



MARCENA

“As a court stenographer, AB 5 is not a realistic approach. As a licensed professional who has worked as an independent contractor for the past 27 years, AB 5 has created a mess. Court reporting is just one such industry negatively impacted where my ability to set my rates, days and hours of when I want to work, decide which assignments I want to accept from an agency, etc. do not fit into a traditional employer/employee model. Obviously it would not make sense for me to charge the same amount for a 2-hour workers’ comp deposition as a 2-hour expert witness who may be testifying on anything from medical specialties to asbestos to paint thinners. Nor would I even begin to know how an “employer” would come up with a fair hourly rate to encompass those varying factors. To assume that all industries are better served through traditional employer/employee relationships negates the many workers who decide for themselves when and how they want to work and what they will charge for their time and materials required to perform that work.”



#AB5STORIES

MARY

“I am a legal transcriptionist and lost my job on February 12 due to AB 5. I am a senior and need the additional income to help pay for medical bills that aren’t covered by Medicare.”

#AB5STORIES



JEFF

“As a music composer for media who can no longer legally hire musicians to play for me in CA, I’m looking to move to another state thanks to AB 5.”



#AB5STORIES

DONNA

“I am a freelance court reporter for 44 years and have worked 37 years as an agency owner using other freelance reporters. We are not employees of agencies, we work for dozens. We buy and maintain our own equipment for thousands of dollars. We choose to freelance because we don't want 9 to 5 jobs. As an agency, I can't afford to pay employee taxes. I operate on a 10% profit margin.”

#AB5STORIES



LAURA

“I am a small business (just me) owner. This law has stripped my ability to bring on an independent contractor for overflow typing, translating, or filing. I don’t need or have the budget for a full time, or even part time employee, paying for payroll services, or unemployment insurance. It’s just enough for what I need, which is 2-5 hours a week of help (at best), and I make a habit of hiring a student or a stay-at-home mom who wants to earn some income but needs flexibility and autonomy. This is, or should be, an acceptable situation for an independent contractor, but under AB 5, it isn’t. So those folks lose the income, and my business shrinks because I have to do all my own filing and typing.”



#AB5STORIES

KRISTA

“I am one of many freelancing transcriptionists working from home whose work opportunities have been largely destroyed by AB 5. Many people like myself have invested time and money training to work as freelancers. My right to work as an independent contractor is being taken away. I love my work. I do some work for my own direct clients and some work for transcription companies. All my work, including that for companies, allows me to accept or turn down however much work I want to, when I want to. I control my own schedule and work from anywhere. I go on vacation when I want to. I set aside money for taxes and health insurance. It’s a dream job and one that I was incredibly thankful to have achieved after years of working other jobs I wasn’t happy with. My freedom to do this work is being stripped away.”

#AB5STORIES



ASAF

“How would canceling AB 5 help us during the coronavirus crisis? I think it’s rather simple...It would allow us to work from home. As a musician, I could do online concerts and charge people to see/participate in them.”



#AB5STORIES

ZENAB

“Thank you Governor Newsom for your leadership in dealing with the state’s response to the Corona virus crisis. AB 5 completely eliminates my ability to find work on the front lines in dealing with the Coronavirus crisis, as I serve the Arabic speaking community as a medical and legal Interpreter. I am a wife, a mother with a young daughter at home and I am the sole provider of my household right now. I am an immigrant and I came to this country seeking more freedom to choose how to “pursue my own happiness.”

#AB5STORIES



ROBIN

“I am an ASL Interpreter. Last October I was diagnosed with Stage 3 Colon Cancer. I am currently on my 4th of 12 sessions of Chemotherapy. With the Coronavirus stuff shutting everything down, I am now self-quarantined in my house. A couple of days ago, I answered a Facebook posting looking for Interpreters to work remotely from home. They replied, “California laws... well...they are CA laws!” I won’t be working for this agency. It’s frustrating to not be able to work to provide for my family.”



#AB5STORIES

BARBARA

“Until very recently I was a freelance transcriptionist living in Van Nuys. I could get work from companies TODAY if I were a resident of any other state but this one. I have zero interest in filing for unemployment — I just want to work — now more than ever!”

#AB5STORIES



MICHELE

“I have been a freelance writer since 1987 and I also occasionally work as a freelance chef. If AB 5 was suspended, the immediate result would be a welcome decrease in my anxiety. Anxiety at our current level is dangerous and we really need all our energy and resources to focus on the impact of the virus.”



#AB5STORIES

HELEN

“AB 5 has virtually ended our freelance music careers in production. Now the corona virus has stopped all performance opportunities. A repeal of AB 5 will allow us to see some light at the end of the tunnel ...that we could be going back to our lives as the crisis passes. In the immediate future we can at least start production activities (writing, arranging, recording)for our clients...if they will use our services as they once did before AB 5. A repeal of AB 5 will have a positive psychological effect on our lives. As public life returns, a repeal will encourage live performances by those entities that once used live musicians.”

#AB5STORIES



SCOTT

“I work in the music industry and hire many others in the music industry that, until now, I have treated as independent contractors. With AB 5 I am now needing to treat them as employees, which is raising my costs by 25%. Our business is touch and go, and I basically just make ends meet on a month-to-month basis, and this extra cost could eventually put me out of business or cause me to leave CA. With the cancellations happening now due to COVID-19, I am starting to lose gigs, which puts further strain upon my business, so certainly at least suspending AB 5 for the time being would be quite helpful!”



#AB5STORIES

DIANE

“Although it is too late for my husband’s business, as he had to close and sell his truck, because he was unable to get work due to AB 5, which was purchased to help the fire victims in our area clear fire burned lots and help reconstruct our neighborhoods and businesses. Now he is unemployed not only because of AB 5, but also because of the COVID-19 virus. Mr. Newsom, do the right thing for all those who choose to be self employed and help their fellow Californians get through the hardships of the last 3 years of fire damage, and now, in delivering much needed goods to all of us due to the COVID-19 virus.”

#AB5STORIES



VICKI

“Suspending AB5, especially during the COVI-19 shut-down, would help me tremendously as an independent interpreter to be able to offer my services to health care facilities or other places in need of Spanish interpretation services. My work has come to an almost complete standstill for medical interpreting since Jan. 1. Now my work as an immigration interpreter is about to stop completely and I am suddenly left with ZERO income. Help us please.”



#AB5STORIES

KELLY

“I’m a full-time teacher, but I also teach dance on the side. This would allow me to tutor online and not only help those students who may need it, but also make-up for the extra income I get from dance. As a diabetic my options are limited during this time of self-quarantining and this would be very helpful!”

#AB5STORIES



LAUREN

“An AB 5 suspension would really help my current situation. Finding another job isn’t really an option right now and AB 5 took my steady income as a freelance writer away. If I had that income I could also use it to help others who can’t work right now.”



#AB5STORIES

SHIELA

“Since I’m in the age demographic forced to self isolate I have nothing but time available that could be spent earning whatever I can transcribing for general, medical and legal industries.”

#AB5STORIES



ILDIKO

“I have 20 years of experience in translating medical docs plus communication on corporate governance, policies and procedures, employee training programs & notifications, safety flyers, posters, etc. I know there is currently a higher demand to provide workers with timely information related to #COVID19 in various languages other than English. In California translators and interpreters are not permitted under #AB5 to assist with this need currently. During a pandemic this goes beyond individual translators and interpreters losing their livelihoods; multitudes of those who would enjoy their services are potentially left in the dark and put in harm's way.”



#AB5STORIES

MEGAN

“I am a nurse practitioner. Prior to AB 5 I had my own company where I contracted myself to many different privately owned physician offices to fill in gaps and contracted one or 2 days out of the week to provide rural health coverage. Currently in this Covid-19 pandemic, ER staff and local urgent cares WILL need help with coverage. To do W2 help takes months to get the appropriate credentialing, etc to start. It’s quicker for them to use contracted help that are ready to jump in to fight the corona virus. Our community is at a huge disservice if Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and Nurse Anesthetists are not exempt from AB 5.”

#AB5STORIES



KAREN

“It will help me. I know of companies that are looking for contractors to provide video interpreting for telehealth because of the coronavirus. Our health care system is going to be taxed to the limit and even break down, and interpreters are needed to fight this pandemic.”



#AB5STORIES

COLLEEN

“I know hundreds of other musicians and gig workers who have straight-up said that between AB 5 and the coronavirus, they already know they can’t pay rent come April 1st. I could hire some people to work from home if AB 5 were suspended and get money into their hands NOW. I run a Christmas Caroling company, and only about half our repertoire is recorded. Many singers I know have the ability to record from home (with equipment they bought).”

#AB5STORIES



ANNAMARIA

“I will be able to continue working from home as an English to Hungarian translator. Besides that I am supporting my family as a main money maker, I will be able to continue offering services to clients who work for healthcare and pharma companies and conduct clinical trials between the US and Europe. This is the way I can contribute and serve in public health sector and AB 5 makes this very difficult and complicated if not completely impossible.”



#AB5STORIES

MOLLY

“The job I finally found to replace my freelance work that I lost in January closed due to COVID 19. In the last month, my wages decreased drastically as business gradually slowed and more people stayed in. I spent January looking for work and felt relieved to finally find a job only to have all of this happen. Overall my earnings have tanked this year. If AB 5 were to be suspended, I could resume my freelance work and make up for lost time as a writer. Having this over turned would make a drastic difference for so many people who’s years started off on a rough note when we lost our jobs the first time. Please suspend AB 5.”

#AB5STORIES



JULIA

“I’m a certified court reporter who has chosen to work as an independent contractor for more than 15 years. Now that COVID-19 is here, our industry is in a complete upheaval. Like everyone, we’re having to figure out how to proceed and protect everyone’s health, while also figuring out how to satisfy the politicians in Sacramento who have decided to deprive California workers of their choices in the workplace. As I contemplate months of drastically cut or absent income, I implore the government in California to suspend AB 5. There has never been a more important time for California workers to have choices about what they do and when and how they work.”



#AB5STORIES

JEREMY

“I’m the CEO of a 200 person company in San Diego. Suspending AB 5 would have a dramatic, life-saving impact on our business.”

#AB5STORIES



NIKKI

“I am an independent contractor who’s livelihood has been cut drastically due to Covid-19 (my business is mostly working with the elderly performing ultrasounds..so they aren’t coming in for routine appts). My pay is going to drop at least 3k a month and now my manager is asking if I fall into this AB 5 mess. Although I am not sure as of yet because it’s confusing but if I do, I cannot lose the last little bit of money I will get. This will devastate me and I’m watching it devastate others. Please suspend it until you can fix it. This is an expensive state to live in and some of us are doing all we can to make it...which includes working multiple jobs.”



#AB5STORIES

JOSEPH

“I need AB 5 repealed because I’ve lost \$1000 worth of work per month because of it, and now that the coronavirus has slowed down opportunities for other work, I’m in danger of losing my housing and not being able to pay for my health insurance. I have less money than ever and not one of my clients has made moves to bring me on as a full-time employee, contrary to AB 5’s intentions. And I’m not alone. Several friends have reached out to me this week saying they’ve lost out on work opportunities because the client is explicitly stating they won’t hire California-based freelancers.”

#AB5STORIES



GITTA

“I am an IT consultant for small businesses. I am in isolation currently and was just tested for the coronavirus today. I need to work with a subcontractor to go to my clients’ offices and do the part of the IT support that cannot be done remotely. I have a 4 hour job right now for a client that needs to be done in that client’s office, so they can start working from home when it is done. According to AB 5 I would have to hire someone as an employee to do a four hour job. The job is very important because it will allow that small business to start working remotely.”



#AB5STORIES

DAVID

“With the Covid19 shutdown of our economy, the harsh reality of the plight of business owners is about to become painfully apparent. They will still have to pay their bills, but with many businesses being shut down, many business owners will struggle to survive. And, unlike employees, who can file for unemployment insurance, most business owners do not have that option. They are the ones taking all of the risks, and yet, they are not able to enjoy even the basic protections they are required to provide for employees. Imposing AB 5 on many business has been a horrible burden for many. Enforcing it during this Covid 19 crises will simply result in the deaths of many businesses, the loss of work for their workers, the loss of goods and services for their customers, and the loss of tax revenue for the state.”

#AB5STORIES



JEANETTE

“As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker I can no longer provide independent services, including in the health care field.”



#AB5STORIES

KAREN

“If I could get my freelance income back, it would make a huge difference in peace of mind in this crisis. We are on lockdown in Orange County now and I fear for my future. Coronavirus-AB 5 is a double whammy of putting people out of work right now.”

#AB5STORIES



ABBY

“My friend Jeff Sherman lives in Petaluma. His main source of income is as a medical transcriptionist — a gig job. He was fired from that job because of AB 5. His second job is also a gig job — as a musician. He has no gigs right now because of COVID-19. He’s also a cancer survivor and must have insurance, which is crazy expensive. His adult daughter is an opera singer, and she is not working either because of the Virus. He is in desperate straits, and suspending AB 5 might at least get him his medical transcription job back. I am so worried for him.”



#AB5STORIES

IRINA

“It would help me maintain more clients during this time because my W2 jobs are now on hiatus and one of them (the corporate-run one) is giving us a leave of absence with only minimal pay at the moment (originally the decision had been with no pay).”

#AB5STORIES



LINDA

“My contract with an out-of-state tutoring agency was not renewed because I live in California. People need tutors now that their courses are online and they aren’t going on campus to tutoring centers.”



#AB5STORIES

KYMBERRLY

“I work at a tribal casino in San Diego, well, at least until we close on Sunday. As I juggle applying for unemployment (via my phone because I have no internet at home) and the library’s computers are not accessible right now due to concerns over CV), figure out which bills I can juggle or postpone, what businesses will work with me and who won’t, I would normally add picking up side jobs just to make ends meet but now I have to worry about all of this bureaucratic red tape of AB 5. I don’t even know what jobs I can even pick up now, and most gigs that were available will no longer do business with Californians because of AB 5.”

#AB5STORIES



KAREN

“I am a self employed house cleaner 65, not able to retire yet and when I do I will have to supplement my income. The cleaning industry is a necessity right now to keep peoples home sanitized and disinfected. I need to use help for cleaning and can't afford workmans comp to hire an employee.”



#AB5STORIES

KELLY

“I provide real time CART Captions for the deaf and hard of hearing. I lost all jobs when the school shut down. This would allow me and many others to caption doctor appointments, education, funerals, meetings, and more.”

#AB5STORIES



DAENA

“Please suspend AB 5 and reinstate the Borello test. In addition to IC healthcare providers who will be able to work there are companies like Working Solutions that are hiring remote customer service right now — please do this for us. For my daughter. Please freelance youth educators can use video conferencing to teach students from home. Children need positive stimulation and regimen and without the state schools being able to coordinate online curriculum, IC educators can step in. Please Suspend AB 5 and reinstate Borello test.”



#AB5STORIES

CLAUDIA

“I am a translator who works in the medical field and usually are able to help the Spanish speaking communities translating printed information they need to keep healthy. In this scary time we are living suspending AB 5 would allow me to survive and help others. Please suspend AB 5.”

#AB5STORIES



KRISTIN

“No online companies are hiring Californians right now. I’m losing my ten-yr old business and can’t make ends meet. The health crisis + AB 5 is a double whammy I won’t survive in this state.”



#AB5STORIES

CHERYL

“I had to take retirement early last year to take care of my ailing 86 year old mother who lives with me. To supplement our income so we don’t have to choose between prescription medications and food, I have become a Virtual Assistant helping businesses do general office administrative duties. Because of AB 5 I cannot now find work. I need to be able to continue working from home to take care of my mom or I don’t know what will happen. I am imploring you — even begging you to PLEASE suspend AB 5 as soon as possible! I am continually worrying and staying up watching over Mom. Adding this to my worries is just too much and I just don’t know how we are going to live.”

#AB5STORIES



TIM

“With AB 5 in place, it is now impossible for me to provide for my family. I am someone with a compromised immune system, and autoimmune diseases (yes, sadly plural.) My life is constantly interrupted by doctors appointments, and without the ability to work as an IC for different people at my own pace, I have no way left to pay our mortgage or put food on the table. I’m scrambling to find ways to establish a new business where I create other things for sale, but that won’t be established in time to make up for the gap. I have plenty of skills, but no way to use them to actually earn a living right now.”



#AB5STORIES

LAURIE

“It will help me keep my freelance business of 32 years going. I started it so I could take care of my then partially disable daughter.”

#AB5STORIES



HOLLY

“I would love to start working with VIPKID, an online platform for teaching English to Chinese students, so that I can work from home during this social distancing period. With AB 5 they stopped hiring from California, but currently my income of multiple performing gigs are all cancelled and I don't have an income anymore.”



#AB5STORIES

JODIE

“As the medical field is becoming overwhelmed, it is even more important to have interpreters available. American Sign Language interpreters need to be in person and able to work. AB 5 has taken most of our jobs away. This creates a situation where Deaf clients are not receiving their ADA rights.”

#AB5STORIES



SANDY

“The thing for me is...I have a job as an employee but am limited to part time and hourly ...30 hrs or less. It is not enough to live on and does not provide benefits. As an older person...job prospects are limited. I supplement with acting gigs which keep me afloat. All gigs are now in jeopardy or gone. I keep asking “how does being an employee guarantee a living wage in this situation?””



#AB5STORIES

KIM

“My partner could lose his salaried job any second because of the economic slowdown. Yet I can’t continue to bill clients as an independent copywriter; my income and income potential was destroyed by AB 5 overnight. Now, the implications are even more dire. Disaster.”

#AB5STORIES



CECILY

“I am an IC with my own editing business. My husband had to downsize his work due to COVID 19, and I need to buy food for our 5 teenagers. I have been turned down by numerous companies because of where I live. “CA residents are not able to work on this project due to recent changes in the legislative landscape.” I don’t want to depend on welfare, I want to earn enough to survive this crisis. Please suspend AB 5.”



#AB5STORIES

DONALD

“I am a self-employed, freelance musician, independent contractor and this bill is going to kill the music business it’s already been killed by the Coronavirus. Please suspend AB 5.”

#AB5STORIES



KIRA

“There are people at home right now who can be providing remote services to help larger companies weather this storm but they are not allowed to because of AB 5. We should be innovating right now, not choking the last working parts of the economy.”



#AB5STORIES

MARY

“Suspending AB 5 would allow me to make use of this time at home to once again provide market research and editorial services to my clients who have opted to use people from other states due to the law. This would allow me to once again bring in income to help support my family.”

#AB5STORIES



JEFF

“My household’s been under siege, savings running low since losing a major client bc of AB 5. Depended on it for rent, family expenses. Suspending it will allow to get back on track, new opportunities, provide % assurance to concerned clients to make up for recent financial loss.”



#AB5STORIES

LEN

“I’m OK for now. But, how many translators, EMTs, therapists, forensic nurses, home health providers & social workers, nurse anesthesiologists, phlebotomists who could be selflessly helping during the pandemic, but saw their careers destroyed by AB 5.”

#AB5STORIES



JOBETH

“AB 5 will end up killing people in CA, especially our poorest and most vulnerable, and those in rural areas where clinics and communities **DEPEND** on skilled medical freelancers.”



#AB5STORIES

ANDI

“Work from home freelance homeschool mom, here. It would help me put me back to work. Especially during the shut down.”

#AB5STORIES



LEAH

“This would absolutely help. Though many of my clients and freelance jobs in entertainment and events industries are shut down now — there **are** other opportunities for income I could pursue that are being denied me because I live in CA, and am impacted by AB 5.”



#AB5STORIES

SHANNON

“It would help me immensely. It would also help my elderly mother, as it would make it easier for me to care for her during this crisis, as well as keep my entire family fed and protected.”

#AB5STORIES



LISA

“Unfortunately it is too late for business that has been lost, who knows how many millions collectively, but lifting AB 5 for 2020 would allow ICs to get NEW work, while giving government time to adjust the law so it works as intended, if its supporters are acting in good faith.”



#AB5STORIES

BILLY

“Most independent contractors in California that have been denied the ability to work in their careers because of AB 5 have used 10 weeks of savings to survive. Week 11 still no legal right to work, savings gone or near depleted. We need a repeal ASAP to live, more-so than most. Survival can’t last forever.”

#AB5STORIES



RACHEL

“People of all income levels would benefit from it being waived, as companies located in other states, paying all range of rates have blacklisted CA entirely.”



#AB5STORIES

DONNA

“Yes, It’s the right thing to do because AB 5 is not punishing companies it’s punishing & impoverishing regular people, Single Mothers, Elderly, disabled why are Professional Independent contractor being treated like criminals”

#AB5STORIES



NICOLE

“Headed toward 20% unemployment says Sec. Mnuchin. Companies aren’t hiring employees and if we can’t work as ICs, we’re not gonna be working at all. And with no Unemployment Insurance, we’re gonna be adding to the ranks of the homeless!”



#AB5STORIES

ANONYMOUS

“I have invoices for 3 months of work I could submit.”

#AB5STORIES



ANNA

“Suspending AB 5 will not only help me as an independent contractor (who lost half of her clients as a result of this law), but it also will help all those in dire need of my professional services during this pandemic. As a telephonic interpreter, I work with both commercial and government sectors. We have vulnerable population, such as elderly, immigrants, children, abandoned individuals with mental disabilities, women in labor, etc. I keep getting automatic emails with all the corona virus drills training and vocabulary. Please, we need a relief from this law on an EMERGENCY basis, even if temporary.”



#AB5STORIES

IMA

“I am a senior mid 60’s since January draining my emergency savings to stay afloat and buy food. Please suspend AB 5 — it would greatly help! We are suffering so badly monetarily and emotional stress is unbearable.”

#AB5STORIES



CLARISSA

“I’m a small biz owner in Sacramento, which allows me to be a community advocate & attend grad school. I support family in Central America. Between coronavirus losses & uncertainty of AB 5, I now have 0 income coming in. COVID-19 is temporary but who knows how long this will last?”



#AB5STORIES

JENNIFER

“Suspending AB 5 would give me the means as an IC healthcare interpreter to freelance via video remote/over the phone interpreting during these next weeks/months, and do translation projects from home. Otherwise I will have zero income.”

#AB5STORIES



MARK

“This is exactly what I was looking for today trying to figure out how to make ends meet for me & my ICs through this tough time. We need to be able to put money in ICs pockets without jumping thru this AB 5 nonsense. Let freelancers earn income without unnecessary restrictions!”



#AB5STORIES

HOLLY

“AB 5 means that people can’t do freelance jobs while they’re out of their jobs due to the Coronavirus outbreak in California. This means that they could starve and go homeless. Most people don’t have much in the way of reserves.”

#AB5STORIES



WENDI

“The events industry is especially suffering as couples are postponing or canceling their weddings. We have no income coming in from second/final payments right now. I lost 1/3 of my biz contracting for other companies.”



#AB5STORIES

LAUREN

“An AB 5 suspension would really help my current situation. Finding another job isn’t really an option right now and AB 5 took my steady income as a freelance writer away. If I had that income I could also use it to help others who can’t work right now.”

#AB5STORIES



RACHEL

“It would help me very much. Even those of us with regular jobs depend on any side gig we can get. I’ve always done freelance work in addition to the daily grind to make ends meet.”



#AB5STORIES

GERARD

“Suspending AB 5 would enable us, a group of hardworking freelancers, to continue to run our successful businesses, as we have done for many years before AB 5.”

#AB5STORIES



MATTHEW

“I’m a freelance journalist for IGN and have lost roughly 95% of my work from last year due to the law, and would benefit greatly during these difficult times if Gov. Newsom could suspend it until next year. I support your stance on fully repealing it, but I’ll take a temporary break at the very least.”



#AB5STORIES

ANTONIETTE

“I support the suspension of AB 5 for 1 year, or total elimination. As a Spanish Interpreter, I don’t have any opportunities to work right during this crisis, as an independent contractor. Thank you.”

#AB5STORIES



ROBIN

“It would help immensely. My primary source of income shut its doors, I now rely on what I can accomplish independently. It would absolutely help my company to suspend AB 5 for the year. The increased cost of AB 5, the lack of business due to COVID-19, we will be hitting negative sales numbers before the end of the month.”



#AB5STORIES

JENNIFER

“Yes, taking the restraints off my ability to write and be marketable would be a godsend in this time of economic emergency with COVID-19. There is little means of doing business and earning an income with this poorly drafted, nebulously interpreted law hanging over my head.”

#AB5STORIES



VICTOR

“I am a Dem, a musician. Biz out of state hires lessons, tutors, translators, journalists. We can work online at home. Some of us have lost work already since Jan 1. Please support this Bill Mr. Governor. We are the people.”



#AB5STORIES

MARIANTHE

“It would help people so much, this is a crisis situation and preventing freelancers from working now is going to make matters even worse. Suspend AB 5 for the good of the state and its citizens! It would help all of us freelancers who chose this career, and who’ve lost all income since January! Would be nice if independent artists could get a little help instead constantly being told they can’t work.”

#AB5STORIES



MONICA

“Of course would give us some time to organize our lives.”



#AB5STORIES

LINUS

“It would help every musician, DJ, sound production person.
Most of whom are taking a huge hit right now.”

#AB5STORIES



BROSEPH

“When business resumes to normal, I need to be able to return to gigging as a musician to compensate for the lost revenue. AB 5 makes this incredibly difficult, if not impossible for me to do this.”



#AB5STORIES

MICHELE

“The dozens of artists I work with each work for a dozen or more different companies, NONE that can afford to make them employees. I can’t even imagine making it for very long even without COVID-19.”

#AB5STORIES



BRIAN

“Please let the governor know that suspending AB 5 would help Brian Harrington in Anaheim, CA.”



#AB5STORIES

ANONYMOUS

“Please count me among those opposed to AB 5. Because I have chosen a small client set (which is how I like it) I haven’t yet lost work. But the fear of being classified as an employee is very scary. Losing my ability to invest in my business with equipment purchase would be devastating.”

#AB5STORIES



BEN

“I’m a film composer and musician. I lost a lot of work when AB 5 was implemented, a good amount with long standing previous clients. For the small amount of work I have gotten this year, I’ve been unable to bring on any CA-based session musicians, and have had to begrudgingly hire out of state ICs. I’m a one man shop, putting someone on payroll for 1 hour of work is beyond my capabilities. As we’ve been collectively buckling down for the pandemic, I’ve been unable to pick up other sources of IC work in music and audio due to AB 5. 2.5 months underemployed, 1 week unemployed with no options in sight. I just got a call from a friend in NY looking for a last minute composer for a Cadillac ad. While not a guaranteed job (have to “pitch” for the spot), it now looks like all CA-based composers are being ruled out because of AB 5. This could have been a project that protected me and my family during this time, but now I’m completely blocked from even trying to pursue it because of this ridiculous legislation.”



#AB5STORIES

MOLLY

“I’m a freelance writer in Los Angeles and suspending AB 5 this year is essential for me to be able to support myself during this time of profound instability.”

#AB5STORIES



ANONYMOUS

“I am a freelance journalist who is sole caregiver for my 87-year-old mom who is in frail health. AB 5 combined with the coronavirus is destroying my ability to support myself and care for my mom. Suspending AB 5 until problems like the 35 article limit have been solved and the coronavirus crisis is past would be a lifesaver in a very difficult time.”



#AB5STORIES

SURI

“All of my jobs have shut down now. I have no income. No way to buy food. I need to be able to do IC work. Dance studios, Pilates studios. Host and speaking work. Studios when open, want to hire me but they have only 2 hours to give me etc. have to make you an employee and instead of making a living wage per class, you cannot survive on a couple hours of 20-25. an hour a class and 2-3 hours a week at a studio. For sure now, I couldn't get hired for extra work with coronavirus.”

#AB5STORIES



PAUL

“With businesses — including individuals — losing their jobs and ability to pay for health care in the face of a pandemic, restricting their basic ability to earn money AS THEY CHOOSE TO DO IT is not only callous but dangerous. AB 5 will cause economic upheaval in the midst of a global disaster.”



#AB5STORIES

SARAH

“As an interpreter I need to be able to get work right now with the COVID-19 our work has been cut dramatically and I want to be able to do in person or video work if and when it is available. Our access as Deaf people have been cancelled — I went to my daughters appointment only to find that they didn’t schedule an interpreter because of the emergency but I still need communication access. It is my right as a deaf person! It is considered essential!”

#AB5STORIES



CHRIS

“It’s a no brainer. Companies and organizations are not in a position to hire any employees right now. They don’t even want the people already working for them to come in. Allowing people to work as independent contractors would help people survive. If companies are the main concern, they would also be able to get work done more expeditiously.”



#AB5STORIES

DOUG

“I have many rideshare driver friends that are scared that they will soon lose their supplemental income.”

#AB5STORIES



MEAGAN

“A suspension of AB 5 would help me to be able to work from home doing Video Remote Interpreting (VRI). This service is much needed right now due to the shifting of business and classes to online formats. Under AB 5 these VRI companies cannot be work with anyone from California. As a sign language interpreter serving the deaf community, most of my work is face to face which means I have no work for at least a month.”



#AB5STORIES

TAMARA

“In the court reporting profession, we are at a standstill with this emergency “shelter in place” that is spreading faster than the virus. The code requires that a certified shorthand reporter is present for depositions of party witnesses, at a minimum. If we were able to operate as independent contractors, which we are in every sense of the term, we would be able to work remotely and continue to derive an income for our homes.”

#AB5STORIES



NOREEN

“Our upcoming concert was canceled — our musicians are scrambling — we are trying to help by paying those and to try and give them a bit of relief...We have no ticket revenue, we are dipping into our reserves to try and help as many as we can. We are issuing emergency funds — Since we only have 4 concerts a year — all were being paid as independent contractors, we have not had the time to set up the payroll for employees. We have 40 people who were counting on income from this concert. Most of our musicians work as independent contractors for multiple organizations — all are floundering.. As a Jewish organization dedicated to Tikkun Olam (heal the world) we feel obligated to help as many of our dedicated musicians as possible. For 25 years we have treated them as family — we will not forsake them now.”



#AB5STORIES

KIMBERLY

“I worked from home as a transcriptionist. I lost my 15-year transcription career on January 1st because of this bill. My transcription work kept my family from losing everything during the last recession. If I had not lost my career in January due to this bill that knocked my family down to one income and made us financially vulnerable a couple months before this national emergency, my family would be a lot less vulnerable and stressed out right now, as I would have been setup perfectly to continue working from home and saving my family from what will mostly likely be another recession and quite possibly losing our one remaining income. I find it interesting that they want everybody to work from home now, but my ability to do this has been taken away.”

#AB5STORIES



PAULA

“I have been an independent contractor on two fronts (writing/editing and music) for nearly 30 years. AB 5 has already begun to destroy my livelihood on both fronts. As a theater and gig musician (violin and viola), I have seen jobs I have been able to count on for the past decade (short musical theater runs, live band gigs) dry up and disappear. Theaters have flat-out explained that they are moving to pre-recorded tracks instead of live music because they can't afford to pay gig musicians under the new rules. Particularly now, in the shadow of the new coronavirus, when we read that millions of jobs are expected to be lost in this country, and that it is likely to be difficult for many years for the displaced and unemployed people to replace lost income, why on earth would California add to the pain and burden of its citizens by making it harder for us to support ourselves?”



#AB5STORIES

DENISE

“Not only did I lose my extra income, I am losing my skills and techniques of having my hands up in the air, my metacognitive thinking processes required to translate ASL to English and English to ASL. The main agency I worked for is in fear of the fines attached to AB 5. Now that the corona virus has struck, there is no work, anywhere! One of the most vulnerable communities is the Deaf. Without interpreters, they will be misled, by non professionals which could possibly lead to inappropriate decisions and possibly death. Repealing AB 5 would free up the agencies to have us return to work and provide communication to the Deaf in their doctors visits, or hospital visits, as well as communicating to teachers or their children who are now being homeschooled.”

#AB5STORIES



JOSH

“AB 5 was a disaster for honest, hardworking gig workers (and their clients) even before the virus crisis arrived. The inability of many gig workers to earn money makes a bad crisis far worse.”



#AB5STORIES

LAURA

“LAST thing we ICs need right now are restrictions on how we can work. WE will be the ones left out of most, if not all of the stimulus planned to keep this ship afloat (and roofs over our heads) — paid leave, PTO, income supplementation, etc. If you really, really want streets of shame, continue to make it impossible for us to freely make a living so we will be on the streets as well. Now THAT would be a significant number. Please completely toss out AB 5. If you can't come to that level of sanity, please suspend pending economic recover.”

#AB5STORIES



ACE

“I’ve been a self employed variety performer for 40 years. In the next 8 weeks I lose \$12,000 for to festival and fair cancellations. I just had a huge event cancel (Northern California Pirate Festival) in JUNE. This was not only in response to possible need due to the virus but primarily because they can’t figure how to pay the entertainment. It’s only 2 days out of the year. Once the danger is over they would keep it scheduled or reschedule IF NOT for AB5. With literally every venue canceling, I will be homeless shortly. I’m still dealing with financial fallout from my wife’s 3-month stay in an ICU and subsequent passing 4 years ago. AB 5 makes it impossible to find replacement work now. People outside of California will no longer work with me due to fear of this law. Independent contractors in California are now further behind the eight ball than anyone else being affected by this terrible pandemic. The Corona virus has also wiped out my ability to even move out of California. A move which I had to begin planning in order to save my business. If I can’t do it here, I have to go somewhere I can.”



#AB5STORIES

RACHELE

“I am a work from home mom, raising my twin boys, but still being able to contribute to our family’s financial expenses. I am not having much luck finding work outside the house since I haven’t been an “employee” for the last ten years. We were also faced with having to put the boys in before and after school care if I can find work, which would be another financial burden on our family. However, now with the situation going on with the school closures and indefinite time frames, I cannot even return to working outside the home. I need to be home with our boys!”

#AB5STORIES



ANONYMOUS

“I was a Medical Transcriptionist with a client who was providing me full time daily dictations to transcribe. On January 1, 2020 she had to let me go and was going to give my work to another out of state. Imagine my horror knowing someone else was going to be making my \$2500 a month that my family desperately needs. AB 5 has destroyed our lives. This experience has caused me severe depression, anxiety, and panic attacks. We are facing the possibility of foreclosure on our home as well.”



#AB5STORIES

LOIS

“I’ve been panicked because AB 5 will wipe out most of my income. I write 84 articles per year for one of these outlets alone, which means I would be losing more than half my income from that one outlet. As a career freelancer — one who has chosen this as a career to fit my schedule — I am outraged that the government would limit my work. My husband is retired, my daughter is losing her job as a restaurant server now, and I am lucky to have my freelance career. AB 5 must be repealed immediately, especially with so many people losing work anyway due to this pandemic.”

#AB5STORIES



ESTHER

“I am a senior, a woman and a minority. I work as a Certified Medical Interpreter for people who do not speak English. This law keeps me out of the job and unable to pay my bills. In addition, it withdraws interpretation services from many people, who are now unable to communicate with their health providers.”



#AB5STORIES

ED

“As an Independent Contractor Massage Therapist as well as a company who has hired therapists to work mobile at our Corporate Accounts, AB 5 has put me out of work entirely. As has been said for so many other professions, the freedom to “choose” how to work independently and negotiate my own contracts has been my preferred working arrangement. There are many independent service provider Massage Therapists that will be needed through this year in our health care system. With the current climate, there will be the need to work in this flexible way for so many people who might request our services either remotely in their homes or at corporate functions will help tremendously.”

#AB5STORIES



MANUAL

“A lot of websites where I can write articles and make money from home are not accepting people from California so I can’t use those websites anymore. Making money from home without the restrictions of being a full time employee, would be more helpful than what AB 5 is doing right now.”



#AB5STORIES

PAMELA

“Suspending AB 5 is the best thing to do at this time. I work from home teaching ESL. I am able to continue to do this job even during the coronavirus scare. Other family members may lose their jobs and income because they have to stay home. Before, this job was working to get my family out of debt, but now we may end up relying on it to support us. And if I lost this job, I would be unable to find a new one in the regular work place because students are no longer in school in America. I love my job, I pay taxes, and this job works for my family life. Thank you for your consideration.”

#AB5STORIES



JAMES

“Suspending AB 5 will be a major help during this time and it is key to my business in general. Many may try to say that the gig economy is risky and use covid-19 as an example, but actually, the people that do gig jobs are far more stable because they have multiple things going on and are used to keeping reserves and covering their risks. We want to put people back to work during this time and its best we hire them as 1099! they can work remotely and train people with skills that will get them jobs they can do remotely as well.”



#AB5STORIES

CONNIE

“Oh, my goodness it would just be the best thing if Governor Newsom could have some compassion and suspend AB 5. I would be able to do Transcription again. All the Transcription jobs went out of state. These are just devastating times, and Governor Newsom could lift the burden to so many families, including my friend that is in healthcare. Please, please show compassion. Thank you.”

#AB5STORIES



TAMI

“Please, yes, suspend — better yet, do away with — AB 5! I think this was a mistake as it has impacted so many independent contractors financially, myself included. And now with the COVID-19 going around, money is an extreme concern. Any efforts to ease financial burden is extremely appreciated!”



#AB5STORIES

CAROL

“Suspending AB 5 would allow me access to my most lucrative client, who pulled back after it passed but has vowed to retain me once again if AB 5 goes away. I don’t have access to any other decent-paying work right now and can’t apply for any because of this law. I’m having to use fire insurance money to live on, and I need every penny of that for rebuilding. I really need to work!”

#AB5STORIES



REED

“AB 5 has caused me to lose jobs worth thousands of dollars just in the last month. All of my friends are independent musicians and teachers and most of them have lost even more than I have. Most of us won’t be able to stay in California if this bill continues to ruin our livelihoods. Please at the very least put this bill on hold while we all try and survive this virus that has caused gigs to be cancelled indefinitely.”



#AB5STORIES

KATISSE

“As a freelance (independent contractor) musician I can record my parts on records and movies without worry of being misclassified as an employee and getting myself or my employers fined. Getting rid of AB 5 would be a huge blessing in general let alone when all live shows (and many in person recording sessions) have been cancelled. Thank you!”

#AB5STORIES



SEAN

“I am a self employed musician, so right now work is hard to find and stress is high. This is stress on top of the stress I have already been experiencing from AB 5. I was beyond stressed and now more stress with Covid 19. Giving us a chance to breathe again would help so much, and completely removing it would be even better. Why are we being forced to do something that none of us want?”



#AB5STORIES

KATHI

“I am begging you to suspend AB 5. Please give me just a moment of your time to plead my case. I am a 71-year-old retired transcriber. I had to retire at 62 due to health issues so my Social Security benefits are very low — I spent most of my adult life as a housewife raising our six children and went to work in my early 40’s. I depended on my at-home transcription pay to make up what I needed to survive and pay my bills here in California. For 8 years I was able to do okay until AB 5 went into affect and then I lost my work within the state, too.”

#AB5STORIES



AEDAN

“Not only does freelancing give those impacted by COVID-19 an opportunity to work, but it also promotes the importance of following work we remain passionate for. Arts, journalism, and other independent contractors may not follow traditional workplace settings, but as taxpayers, there’s no damage that comes from having the option of remaining freelance. Our everyday lives are changing and the ability to work from home or build our own schedules is a choice that any working American deserves to make for themselves.”



#AB5STORIES

GAIL

“AB 5 has affected my ability to work as an independent contractor transcriptionist. One of my companies can no longer use transcriptionist from California and Massachusetts also my husband is a music teacher and his employment is now further jeopardized. This creates an unbelievably disastrous effect on our income and ability to pay our bills. Please repeal this horrible bill so we’ll be able to eke out an already meager existence.”

#AB5STORIES



CAROL

“I have owned a talent agency in San Diego for the past 30 years. I usually 1099 about 200 actors a year. Actors typically work with a few different agencies, do theater work and try to make a living through many sources. Now with the Corona virus, their work along has come to a stand still. It's like a one, two punch for them. Also since the beginning of the year, I have had several production companies from out of the State who were planning to come to CA to for their shoot (which brings a lot of money to the economy) tell me that they have changed their plans because of AB 5 and will go to another State.”



#AB5STORIES

REGINA

“Dear Governor, in these hard times for all of us, I’d like you to look into AB 5 from the human being point of view. There are millions of independent contractors, who have already lost their incomes due to AB 5. We all have families, kids, elderly relatives we need to support. Imagine that you aren’t able to pay your mortgage/rent, utility bills, buy groceries, pay for your kids after school activities etc. Unfortunately, that has been our reality since January of 2020. Because We (freelancers and independent contractors) CAN NOT WORK AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS. We love what we do. We love being independent contractors. I beg you to read the stories of thousands of us and suspend AB 5. Maybe it was created and meant good, but is not working for us.”

#AB5STORIES



SEQUOIA

“This is a message for Governor Newsom, with the request to use his emergency powers to suspend AB 5. I have been a freelance artist for 20 years, and I rely on several different streams of income and many different types of companies big and small to pay my bills each month. This law makes it expensive for local companies to hire local professionals. It will have them looking to outsource freelancers elsewhere to avoid the expensive W2 requirements. It’s hard enough to be a freelancer, and AB 5 makes things 100 times more difficult for all of us. Please reconsider and understand how terribly this will impact my life and every single freelancer I know. We need as much support as we can get, and we are a huge part of Los Angeles and what makes it special here.”



#AB5STORIES

MARY

“I can work from home doing legal transcription work as I was doing before AB 5. I have been out of work over 6 weeks now and feeling the financial strain as well as emotional strain. I am disabled on Social Security and could help get the economy back by working during this time.”

#AB5STORIES



MARION

“As a freelance translator, I am directly affected by this bill, and despite operating as an LLC, I have had clients (US-based translation agencies) tell me they can no longer work with me because they have suspended all working relationships with California translators at the advice of their legal counsel. To make matters worse, COVID-19 directly affecting my business in two ways: 1. I work primarily in the field of marketing, and many businesses are suspending their global marketing campaigns right now to focus on more important things. 2. Many businesses are now prioritizing medical/COVID-19-related translations for obvious reasons, which further reduces the workload for non-medical translators like me. As you can imagine, the combination of AB 5 and COVID-19 has created a double whammy for my business, and my income is down nearly 60% compared to last year. A suspension or repeal of AB 5 would take at least one of these strains away.”



#AB5STORIES

GEOFF

“Repealing AB 5 will mean that when there is work, i will be able to afford to do it. The extra costs involved with complying remove the profit margin. Additionally as composers and musicians we desperately need to stay current with musical instruments (both actual and virtual). In order to do that we need to be able to deduct the legitimate business costs we incur. With 1099 work we can do that, with W2, we can not.”

#AB5STORIES



TINA

“I have a small healthcare staffing business that up until January, used Independent Contractors (college educated professionals that CHOSE to work independently). They took about a 10% rate cut to comply with AB 5 as I transitioned them to employees. My business has taken a financial hit as well. At this point, I am looking at layoffs.”



#AB5STORIES

CAROL

“As a small business owner in Carmel, CA, AB 5 will decimate my business. We are now dealing with Covid-19 and the very people the AB 5 law would affect, are being hit hard by the closures. Repeal AB 5, now more than ever.”

#AB5STORIES



MELVIN

“I am a freelance fashion stylist. I am not employed by any company, please help protect me in these very difficult times where all my jobs are being postponed due to social distancing.”



#AB5STORIES

TOM

“As musicians, my wife and I often hire singers and musicians to record parts on our songs. Sometimes the person comes over one time only, and that might be the only time we ever meet them in person. Yet we have to treat this person as an employee, for a one-time job? The 1099 system worked just fine for us. We’ve (my wife and I) now created our own LLC so that we can legally get paid for rendering services to others. Perhaps we’ll be better off in the long run, but it’s been challenging (time and money), and forcing everyone to do this seems absurd. Trying to find out from lawyers what we need to do hasn’t been easy. There’s been some confusion and conflicting information, since the law is so new. I have contracted my technical services (software development, studio production training, etc.) in the past and 1099s have always worked. With AB 5 I was all of a sudden unable to do that anymore. We have had to get creative and support ourselves in various ways, and we need the flexibility to do numerous different things for income.”

#AB5STORIES



NATHALIE

“SO MANY artists have lost their gigs and what they considered their livelihood, many were in the midst of LEAVING California and now with a global pandemic, they are hit DOUBLY HARD and losing their HOMES, CARS, Rentals, and entire BUSINESSES. It was bad enough trying to make ends meet when AB 5 hit, now we are facing a nuclear bomb in our wallets. I own a humanitarian circus and have helped raise over 6.3 million to aid global charities. Gifted kids from all over the world come to my facility In Los Angeles every year to learn how to use their talents for the greater good. AB 5 makes ZERO sense for me to have CHILDREN AS EMPLOYEES.. as some work just 2 hours a year for me.. The most they would do a “gig” for is maybe 1-2 hours every few months! I am a legitimate Child Performer permit holder , all my artists are minors and have legitimate California entertainment work permits and they make maybe \$50 each.”



#AB5STORIES

AAAV

“It would absolutely help my company to suspend AB 5 for the year. The increased cost of AB 5 , the lack of business due to COVID-19 we will be hitting negative sales numbers before the end of the month.”

#AB5STORIES



PATRICIA

“Suspend AB 5. These are unprecedented times. Employers are going to balk at hiring permanent employees, and who can blame them? Freelance work will save many families.”



#AB5STORIES

SHARON

“I am a freelance cellist in the San Francisco Bay Area and operate my own wedding music business. With the Covid19 shutdown of our economy, the harsh reality of the plight of small business owners is about to become painfully apparent. They will still have to pay their bills, but with many businesses being shut down, many business owners will struggle to survive. And, unlike employees, who can file for unemployment insurance, most business owners do not have that option. They are the ones taking all of the risks, and yet, they are not able to enjoy even the basic protections they are required to provide for employees. Imposing AB 5 on many businesses has been a horrible burden for many. Enforcing it during this Covid 19 crises will simply result in the deaths of many businesses, the loss of work for their workers, the loss of goods and services for their customers, and the loss of tax revenue for the state. Sir, I implore you to at least put this bill on hold during this health crisis. I am hurting; badly.”

#AB5STORIES



KATHERINE

“My friend, Jake, was laid off at his job because of the Coronavirus and he just started last month. Freelance referrals have helped him after being laid off. AB 5 is a horrible law that limits people in their careers. During this time, writers/photographers/illustrators/videographers turn to freelance when something like this pandemic affecting full-time employment. I rely on freelance writing while looking for full-time jobs. It can be hard for college graduates like me to start out in journalism when entry-level in the field are professional 3+ years at newspapers like the LA Times.”



#AB5STORIES

MICHAEL

“I am a freelance writer covering the travel industry for FORBES. Just as my coverage of the COVID-19/coronavirus tells the story of how the airlines, cruise lines, hotels and destinations like California and Las Vegas are hammered by the virus, I will soon be “termed out” of my ability to write about this critical issue, or indeed, any other. Once I hit the very arbitrary limit of 35 contributions to one publications, FORBES has told me I am done writing for them. That will be the end of my income, and the end of my contributions to state and federal taxes and Social Security. Despite my expertise, they will simply use writers from other states, as they fear getting sued by California. And let’s be honest — almost no publications are hiring full-time writers or editors, particularly during this difficult time.”

#AB5STORIES



TONY

“Dear Governor Newsom, I commend you for your leadership in dealing with the state’s response to the threat posed by the coronavirus. Now more than ever before, it remains incumbent upon our leaders to ensure that our entire community of residents, including those who speak languages other than English, are getting timely information regarding the Coronavirus and how they should protect themselves and their loved ones. Moreover, they need to hear, in their own language, what resources and programs are available to them to cope with all of the pressures brought to bear by this unparalleled crisis. Independent Contractors and Freelancers are being sidelined right now by AB 5, and this reality is just as devastating as the Coronavirus itself because those who are not working are not able to pay their bills and provide for their families. If you simply sign an executive order tomorrow to remove the AB5 mandates, your concerns about “parents finding work” will be significantly and greatly reduced from one day to the next.”



#AB5STORIES

MICHELE

“While AB 5 may be a good law for laborers, workers, and those who need a 40-hour-per-week income, the tens of thousands of us who are making a living following a career and/or working only enough to make ends meet because we have other issues like childcare, elder care, disabilities, etc. would like the freedom to pursue our careers without joining unions. My dad was a union member. I make a satisfactory living in theatre, my passion. Can’t the great state of California have room for liberty for all?”

#AB5STORIES



ALAN

“When I first heard of AB 5, the first thing that struck me was the impact upon the tax liability of the freelancer as an individual. Simply put an earner making 50k per year with 15k in deductions will see an increase of \$1847 in taxes if forced to convert from Schedule C to W2, and an increase of \$3096 in forced to convert from S-Corp to W2. AB 5 is, among other things, a tax increase on freelancers, disguised as a “worker protection” law.”



#AB5STORIES

TARI

“I am a national certified ASL Interpreter for the Deaf Community. By your help with This issue, you are allowing those of us who are Certified to be able to work for those much needed Deaf Patients who are going to experience health issues as the Corona Virus continues to affect everyone! In addition to the myriad of needs that with the current AB 5 requirements we are unable to provide our much needed skill set.”

#AB5STORIES



KELLY

“As an independent contractor who also hires independent contractors in the event industry, we all consider ourselves self-employed, and many of us have worked this way beautifully for many decades. Sometimes I am the contractor and sometimes I am the one contracted. For us, it is a beautiful way to do business. AB 5 is in direct conflict with that freedom. Add to that this extremely strange moment in our history with this virus known as Covid 19, when all of us on both sides of the equation are scrapping for every bit of business we can possibly find since the event industry is basically no more, and it is even more disastrous. Many of us are online frantically looking for ways to do virtual events or anything else that we can do to stay afloat. This is an extremely scary time for all of us.”



#AB5STORIES

JAN

“I am a professional pet sitter and Freelance online teacher. All my pet sitting clients have canceled of course since no one is traveling. I have no main income due to AB5 and now no back up income due to the Chinese Coronavirus. AB 5 MUST be suspended for economic stimulus this state will desperately need.”

#AB5STORIES



DAVID

“The independent owner operator truckers are coming to the rescue to ensure goods are delivered to the stores for the American public. The same response when we had the Santa Barbara floods, I was one of the first responders to assist with the 101 mud removal looking for victims, there were hundreds of independent owner operator truckers working during those months of the disaster cleanup. Then again with the fires both in the South and Northern California cleanup. We are business owners, plain and simple, we ask you Governor to Permanently exempt us from AB 5.”



#AB5STORIES

CINDY

“I have been an Independent Contractor for about 25 years. With the passing of AB 5 my income was slashed by about 50% overnight. I’ve had to borrow money from friends just to pay my rent and to keep my utilities turned on. And now with Covid 19, the little means of income I have left, will end after I finish working this Saturday, March 21st. I’ve now been “working” for a small company and because of the possibility of public exposure to the virus, the owner is closing her doors for at least 2 months. I am extremely close to losing my home and everything I’ve worked so hard for all my adult life. I have no family and don’t know what I will do if this happens. AB 5 has completely destroyed my ability to make a living. I am 60 years old, work in very specialized fields, and currently it is impossible for me to even attempt to find a “job”. Please suspend or repeal this bill. I know so many people who are in financial trouble because of it.”

#AB5STORIES



MALCOLM

“I’m an independent cinematographer and video editor. My work has either been farmed out to people outside of California to avoid the taxation of the new law or, for the work that has remained, it has burdened both the businesses that have hired me and myself as well. With California having Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego, which are major concentrations for creatives, artists, musicians, writers, techies and more who have all built their livelihood around providing a service of their craft. I hope that the negative impact of this law on these businesses and individuals is recognized and that it will be suspended, especially in this dire time with COVID-19 crippling the economy of not only California but the country and the world at large.”



#AB5STORIES

JAKE

“I’m scared for how AB 5 will affect my colleagues lives, especially during this Coronavirus pandemic where very few employers are willing to hire at a time like this. As an artist, it is very hard to find employment, especially since people are now going to have to pay full time benefits. I live the LA area right now, and it’s going to be hard to live if I can earn my wages. AB 5 prevents artists from making a living.”

#AB5STORIES



MICHAEL

“AB 5 hurts me and my freelance colleagues who are stuck at home while the state prevents them from making money under contract.”



#AB5STORIES

HEATHER

“Suspending AB 5 would very much help event producers now trying to get online/virtual event gigs!”

#AB5STORIES



REMI

“I could be working from home right now and making a lot of money if not for AB 5. I worked for an out of state non-union privately held media company.”



#AB5STORIES