

What's Next?

For Interpreters & Translators in California

Who Care About Our Professions



With passage of AB 5, a sweeping new law will soon apply a cookie-cutter definition of “employee” to thousands of language professionals throughout California. It threatens upheaval and serious harm.

Many translators and interpreters have questions about how this law will affect our occupations and our own operations.

The Coalition of Practicing Translators and Interpreters of California (CoPTIC) is here to answer questions and advocate for YOU. We are a statewide network of nonpartisan advocates for our professions and the communities we serve.

Working together in 2019, we educated lawmakers about the long-standing autonomy of interpreters and translators, a defining facet of our fields. We called attention to the July 2019 ruling by a state administrative law judge holding that “interpreters are deemed to be contractors and not employees.”

We stand proudly for the entirety of our professions. We are committed to winning respect for our expertise and autonomy so we thrive alongside the Californians we serve. **Will you join us?**

In the short term, approval of AB 5 without an exemption for interpreters and translators is sending waves of anxiety throughout our professions and the people we serve. We want to help you respond to basic questions and invite you to be involved NOW in our advocacy to fix the law in 2020.

Q. When is the new law set to take effect?

A. January 1, 2020.

Q. How does AB 5 hurt me and my work?

A. Taking away independent contractor status from language professionals will mean loss of flexibility to accept jobs that you enjoy. It deprives you of discretion to choose the date or time of work. It also strips the ability to set your own rates. For some, it takes away predictability of work and income. Interpreters and translators will lose our traditional two-hour and half- or full-day minimums.

Q. What can I do to fight back?

A. The only way to fix the law and protect the autonomy of interpreters and translators in California is to advocate for it to be corrected through the democratic process. This means having a sustained presence in Sacramento to work with lawmakers and shepherd a cleanup bill through the legislature. That is how we win an exemption. There is no shortcut to representation for ourselves, or the results it delivers.

Q. Who are my lawmakers, and how do I get their attention?

A. Join with CoPTIC to get involved in constituency-driven advocacy. We can put you in touch with the lawmakers who work for YOU. The plan to win depends on your involvement and your informed voice influencing your legislators. **Can we count you in?**

To JOIN CoPTIC, send your name, occupation, address, & phone to **CoalitionPTIC@gmail.com**

Lorena Ortiz Schneider, Co-Chair * Pilar Garcia, Co-Chair * *Because we are devoted to achieving policies that respect the autonomy of our professions, donations to CoPTIC are not tax-deductible.*

Coalition of Practicing Translators & Interpreters of California

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