



**TAALS**

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LANGUAGE SPECIALISTS

## **AB5 AND ITS EFFECTS ON FREE-LANCE TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS**

### **STATEMENT FROM TAALS (THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LANGUAGE SPECIALISTS)**

**26 JANUARY 2020**

The American Association of Language Specialists (TAALS) was founded in 1957 and is the oldest professional association of translators and interpreters in the Americas. Its membership spans the globe, but its strongest contingent is domiciled in the United States, with a total of 171 members (34 translators, and 167 interpreters). Together, they work in as many as 19 languages, many of which are in the national interest.

Its members work up to the highest levels of government, including several Departments, the White House, industry and academia.

Given its important status in our professions, TAALS wishes to go on record with the following statement:

1. TAALS, like other sister organizations, is deeply concerned about the negative impact that AB5 has had on our free-lance colleagues since it became law on 1 January 2020. Many of our members are losing income daily.
2. TAALS congratulates organizations such as the Coalition of Practicing Translators and Interpreters in California (CoPTIC) and professional associations, including, but not limited to AIIC/USA (the US Region of the International Association of Conference Interpreters), the ATA (the American Translators Association), JNCL, on their hard work and dedication in attempting to obtain an exemption from the law for translators and interpreters.
3. TAALS feels strongly that its free-lance members (the vast majority of our membership) have been misclassified in the new law as “gig workers”, which has lead to unintended consequences and casualties.
4. TAALS declares its unequivocal and total support for the efforts undertaken by the organizations mentioned above and offers its cooperation in whatever way possible.
5. TAALS, in summary, wishes to stress the vital importance of an exemption for all free-lance translators and interpreters who have no complaints about their status as independent contractors and do not feel that they have been exploited or wronged in any way by clients. Being independent contractors has been beneficial for them and their customers for many decades.

***Pascale F. Ledeur-Kraus,  
President, TAALS***



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