

Be Pro-Active: Fix the PRO Act & Defend Your Professional Livelihood

The federal PRO Act (HR 842) contains a provision that could cripple the capacity of professional translators and interpreters to operate as independent contractors. That in turn would destroy language access for tens of millions of Americans.

The bill has already passed the U.S. House. So fixing this bill and preventing irreparable harm is **up to U.S. Senators**. It's also **up to US!** That means being pro-active and using your voice with the Senators who work for YOU. Please **CALL AND E-MAIL YOUR 2 U.S. SENATORS NOW**.

Step A: Call

Don't know your 2 Senators? Find their names here: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/> [click on "State" to put the list in alphabetical order by state]

Don't know your 2 Senators' office phone numbers? Click on the name of each of YOUR state's 2 Senators, which takes you to their official Web site, and scroll down to where it says "**Contact**." Make note of two numbers for each Senator: the **state office** nearest you AND the **Capitol Hill** office in Washington, D.C.

CALL each Senator at the state office first. In the call, your goal is to: **Get the name** of the Legislative Director AND the **key staffer** you speak with. Then talk through the issue — CoPTIC America has prepared a FAQ sheet to help you with this. Then confirm their 2 email addresses (staffer and Legislative Director).

There is a shortcut for the Capitol Hill office: Once you know your **2 Senators' names**, you can call the U.S. Capital Switchboard and ask to be put through to each Senator who serves you. **That switchboard number is 202-224-3121**.

[If you live in D.C. or Puerto Rico or another territory that lacks Senate



representation, you still have a voice. Just choose to contact the 2 Senators of the state where you have the strongest status as stakeholder.]

Step B: Follow Up

Commit to following up via e-mail AND ask during your phone conversation if the staffer will confirm receiving your e-mail by replying. Send the e-mail; use the language below if you need help with what to say.

Step C: Write a Letter

Finally, after all that happens, write a letter and send it via U.S. Mail to the staffer in the state office so they receive it in hard copy. This gesture gets results. CoPTIC America has prepared a letter you can use as a model OR attach with your own letter. (Find that letter here: www.coalitionptc.org under “Current Handouts”)

These are talking points:

As written, Section 101 B, part b, of the PRO Act creates confusion and may cut off the capacity of interpreters and translators to do our work and serve our communities. It repeats a costly error in California that translators and interpreters succeeded in fixing with a law in 2020.

Interpreters and translators are highly trained professionals. We number in the tens of thousands. More than 75 percent of us work as freelancers, in fact and by choice.

Language access is a civil right. Protecting it depends on us. It also depends on lawmakers who respect our essential role. We are part of the growing \$55 billion language service industry that thrives because of our independence.

Please amend Section 101 B, part b, of HR 842 so it does not destroy the livelihoods of professional translators and interpreters.

This message is what U.S. Senators and their staff need to hear, repeatedly. Please **CC or BCC the Coalition** on your message with each Senator. We're at **info@coalitionptc.org** Let us know at CoPTIC America if you **need assistance**. Protect your professional livelihood AND the people you serve. **Make YOUR voice heard** so OUR profession thrives.

