

Date: June \_\_ , 2020

To: Honorable (Your Senator's First and Last Name)

From: (Your First and Last Name) , CA Notary Signing Agent

Subject: Opposition to AB 1850 (Gonzalez) - Worker Classification Law

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I am a California Notary Signing Agent and I oppose the worker classification bill for the reasons stated below. Please OPPOSE AB 1850 - Worker Classification Law.

AB 1850, if passed in its current form, will compromise access to notarial services in CA and threaten the careers of tens of thousands of independent Notary Signing Agents. Also, it will put small businesses like ours at a competitive disadvantage as it will allow large businesses to consolidate notarial services down to a few employees and eliminate competition in any given market.

California Notaries have operated as independent Notary Signing Agents and Mobile Notary businesses for over 20 years. Notary Signing Agents and Mobile Notaries are commissioned through the CA Secretary of State as Notaries Public and perform notarial acts for a variety of clients including business, governmental agencies, and individual consumers. We have conducted millions of loan signings for California consumers buying or refinancing their homes. We are small business owners who have chosen this line of work because of the flexibility to control when and how much we work, operate our businesses the way we want, and choose who we work for. Working as independent contractors has given Notaries the ability to serve the public in our local communities and also the flexibility to juggle family commitments, go to school to further our education, earn a living wage, or additional income to supplement household expenses.

The negative impacts of AB 1850 will hit Notary Signing Agents and Mobile Notary business hard. Although the bill has exemptions from classifying some workers as employees for certain small businesses like real estate appraisers, it does nothing to protect Notaries. While larger businesses will be able to use AB 1850 to eliminate competition by bringing notaries in-house, most small businesses will not be able to do so. The burden of complying with this new worker classification law will also be more challenging for small businesses—as they likely have limited resources to reclassify their contractors as employees and shoulder all the new costs involved. Additionally, independent notary signing agents could suffer a loss of income due to being reclassified as employees by hiring companies.

AB 1850 will unquestionably put independent California Notary Signing Agents and Mobile Notaries at a competitive disadvantage. For businesses that purchase our

services, companies will need to increase prices to their customers, reduce expenses —or perhaps relocate—to accommodate this new burden of reclassifying independent notaries as employees. Even though AB 1850 targets specific industries, and attempts to protect individual workers, it would make it impossible for small business owners to compete with larger businesses here in California. This loss of free-market competition would ultimately harm California consumers—with less choice and higher prices having a disproportionate impact on working families.

California consumers depend on our services included under AB 1850 to complete business transactions in their day to day lives. Without an exemption for Notary Signing Agents and Mobile Notaries, there will be fewer California Notaries available to notarize home loan documents, healthcare directives, powers of attorney, adoption papers, and estate planning documents for Californians.

Based on the reasons above you can see the imminent harm that will be caused to notarial services in this state, to independent Notary Signing Agents, small businesses, and the public at large. If you can't be persuaded against this harmful bill and stringent requirements to reclassify independent workers as employees, please amend this bill and stipulate that California Notary Signing Agents and Mobile Notaries be exempt in AB 1850.

I respectfully request an exemption for California Notary Signing Agents and Mobile Notaries in AB 1850. Thank you for your time, please OPPOSE AB 1850 as written.

Best regards,

(Your Name)  
(Your Address)