



# AB 5 STORIES

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TESTIMONIALS OF CALIFORNIANS WHO  
HAVE LOST THEIR LIVELIHOODS

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

**#AB5STORIES**



# CORI

“AB5 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.”



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**#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. AB5 will not only rob people like me of having dignity and a source of income.”

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#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 AB5 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.”



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# 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.”

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# 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.”



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**#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.”

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#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.”



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**#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.”

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#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!”

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# 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.”



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**#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.”

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# 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.”



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# MELISSA

“My husband is a band leader. Can’t get paid to play music on the weekends anymore because according to AB5 he’d have to make the singer, drummer, and bass player employees of the band.”

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# 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.”



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**#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. AB5 brings a lot of uncertainty. Without an exception, we may be forced to contract outside CA.”

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# 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.”

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#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.”



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**#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).”

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#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.”



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**#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.”

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# 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.”



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# 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 AB5. Many in this profession value the flexibility in hours and working from home more than employee status. Now I have no money at all.”



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**#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!”

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# LAURA

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



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**#AB5STORIES**

# CONNIE

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

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# 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.”



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**#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.”

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# 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.”



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# 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.”

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# 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.”



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**#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.”

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# CLAUDIA

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



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# 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.”

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#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.”

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# KELLY

“I’m a freelance writer supporting myself and a family in Los Angeles, and AB5 directly impacts how I can do that, as well as thousands of my colleagues.”



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# 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 AB5 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.”



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**#AB5STORIES**

# JOHN

“I have been a freelancer for 35 years and am in several areas of work, some of which are adversely affected by AB5. 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.”

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# 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.”



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**#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.”



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# 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.”



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**#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 AB5 directly impacts my ability to work, and my ability to hire film crew members!”



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**#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.”

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#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.”



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# AMY

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

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# RICHARD

“Musician. Multiple venues stating they’re worried about hiring live entertainment until the details regarding AB5 are ‘sorted out’.”



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**#AB5STORIES**



# HSIAO-YU

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

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# 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.”



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**#AB5STORIES**

# CATHERINE

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

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# 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.”



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**#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.”



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**#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.”

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#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.”



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**#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.”



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**#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 AB5 and make musicians employees, nor does that make any sense given the business model.”

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#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.”



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**#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.”

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#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.”

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# 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.”



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**#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.”

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#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.”



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**#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.”

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#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.”



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**#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. AB5 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.”

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#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.”

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#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 AB5 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.”



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**#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 AB5, I, as a musician, producer, and contractor, will not be hiring anyone this year so long as AB5 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.”



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**#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.”



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**#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.”



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**#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. AB5 will impact my livelihood in so many ways. I choose to be an independent contractor.”



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**#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.”



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**#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.”

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#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.”

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#AB5STORIES



# LORRAINE

“I may be losing my job as an independent contractor doing transcribing for almost 30 years. AB5 is life-destroying.”



#AB5STORIES



# ELIZABETH

“I am a Certified Shorthand Reporter in the State I’d California who will be adversely affected by AB5. 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. AB5 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.”

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#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), AB5 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.”



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**#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.”

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#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.”

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#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...”



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**#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.”

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#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. AB5 would cause serious harm to the provision of interpretation and translation services to deaf individuals.”



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**#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.”

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#AB5STORIES



# JOSH

“(AB5) 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.”



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**#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 AB5 because it will take a lot of moms out of the work force.”

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#AB5STORIES



# KAITLYN

“Having recently moved to California, I’ve been relying heavily on freelance writing as a source of income. With the passing of AB5, I have just been locked out of my freelance writing platforms, and am left to scramble to find other means to pay my bills.”



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**#AB5STORIES**



# ROSEMARY

“I am a freelance Sign Language interpreter with a very specialized skill set that I have worked many years to develop. AB5 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 AB5 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.”



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**#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 (AB5), 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.”

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#AB5STORIES



# MISTI

“Due to the passing of AB5, 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.”



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**#AB5STORIES**

# LEE

“My wife and I are independent insurance adjusters. AB5 is having huge and negative impacts on our profession.”

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#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.”



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**#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.”



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**#AB5STORIES**



# ALICIA

“I just got my first notice that because of AB5 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.”

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#AB5STORIES



# RENEE

“The last few months have been an emotional roller coaster because of AB5. 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.”



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**#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.”

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#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.”



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**#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.”

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#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. AB5 has devastated my life. I don’t know how I will be able to pay my bills and afford to live.”



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**#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 AB5 on the individual interpreters. If I refuse to sign these contracts, I will lose out on an estimated \$8,000 of income in 2020. AB5 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 AB5 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. AB5 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 AB5 is not repealed, there will be many freelance court reporters who will retire.”

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#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, AB5 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. AB5 would absolutely gut my work load, cutting my pay by 70% and leaving me unable to pay bills to support my family.”

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#AB5STORIES



# JEFFREY

“I’ve been doing writing and editing work as a remote-working independent contractor for nearly three years now. In anticipation of AB5, my employer stopped renewing the contracts of California workers. I haven’t been able to find work since then.”



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**#AB5STORIES**

# JAYSON

“I’m an independent owner operator in the trucking industry. With the passage of AB5, my 25 years worth of work will be destroyed.”

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#AB5STORIES



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**#AB5STORIES**



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“I’m an independent owner operator in the trucking industry. With the passage of AB5, my 25 years worth of work will be destroyed.”

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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.”



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**#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.”



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**#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. AB5 will decimate this enriching bunch of organizations.”

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#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!”



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**#AB5STORIES**

# KIM

“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.”

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#AB5STORIES



# STACY

“I am a consumer who has had the cost of AB5 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 AB5, I may have to cancel them.”



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**#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 AB5 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.”



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**#AB5STORIES**

# ERNIE

“I have been a columnist for several publications. When AB5 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.”

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#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.”



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**#AB5STORIES**

# DAVE

“Until AB5 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.”

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#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.”



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**#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. AB5 leaves me out of work.”

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#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 AB5, 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 AB5. The ripple effects of AB5 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.”



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**#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 AB5.”

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#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 AB5.”



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**#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.”

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#AB5STORIES



# JANET

“As an independent songwriter, AB5 gravely endangers my ability to earn a living.”



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**#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 AB5. 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.”



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**#AB5STORIES**

# STEPHANIE

“I am an American Sign Language Interpreter who has already lost work after AB5 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.”



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**#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.”



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**#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. AB5 will kill my livelihood of more than 30 years.”

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#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 AB5, I’ve been reduced to 34 submissions a year from well over 700 by the referral service, which is about 60% of my income.”



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**#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.”

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#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. AB5, 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 AB5. This law hurts the lower and middle class people who have side gigs, creative gigs, or are trying to launch their own small business.”



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**#AB5STORIES**



# TIMOTHY

“With this new AB5 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 AB5 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.”

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#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 AB5 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 AB5, 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 AB5. 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.”



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**#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 AB5, 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.”



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**#AB5STORIES**

# NANCY

“I am an optometrist and mother of two. AB5 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

“AB5 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 AB5 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. ”



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**#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 ab5. 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 AB5 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 AB5 would force us to do, or we risk fines that would bankrupt us.”



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**#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 AB5. 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. AB5 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 AB5 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.”

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#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. AB5 does not protect the working middle class. It severely cripples it!”



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**#AB5STORIES**



# WILL

“I’m a freelance photographer that essentially now lost supplemental income because of AB5.”

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#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 AB5 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.”



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**#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.”



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**#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, AB5 outlaws my ability to work with these “like” ICs rendering us powerless to compete and therefore making it impossible to remain profitable.”

#AB5STORIES



