

ATA Issues Statement on AB 5 and Mandatory Employee Classification

ALEXANDRIA, VA — The recent passage of Assembly Bill 5 – or AB 5 – in California will reclassify freelance translators and interpreters as employees beginning January 1 — with devastating effect financially on many of our colleagues working in the state. New York and New Jersey have now begun drafting similar legislation. These laws are intended to address inequities in the “gig economy.” The business of freelance translation and interpreting is far from that. And yet our profession is caught up in a generic definition of what it means to be a “freelancer.”

In September, the American Translators Association joined forces with other T&I organizations to [request an exemption from AB 5 for translators and interpreters](#). The association is now actively supporting the [Coalition of Practicing Translators and Interpreters of California](#) to continue advocating for the exemption.

Read the three statements issued by ATA and get involved in standing up for our profession!

- [ATA Position on AB 5 and Mandatory Employee Classification](#) statement. Lend your support to the request for an exemption for translators and interpreters.
- [ATA generic national statement](#) opposing the inclusion of translators and interpreters in mandatory employee classification legislation.
- Is your state considering mandatory employee classification? Download and modify [ATA’s statement template](#) to let your representatives in the legislature know how this will impact you as a freelancer.
- And give us a heads up on the legislation with an email to president@atanet.org.

Founded in 1959, the American Translators Association is the nation’s largest professional organization for translators and interpreters. Its primary goals include fostering and supporting the professional development of translators and interpreters and promoting the translation and interpreting professions. ATA, based in Alexandria, Virginia, has 10,000 members in over 100 countries. For more information on ATA, please visit www.atanet.org.