



National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators
5555 Glenridge Connector, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30342
Tel: 404-566-4705

September 21, 2023

Senator Anthony J. Portantino
1021 O Street, Suite 7630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Portantino, Vice-Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), on behalf of its 1,100+ members, is addressing you directly concerning AB 1032. Our association, founded in 1978, is singular in representing court interpreters, court translators, judicial officers, court administrators, scholars, trainers, as well as interpretation and translation students. We are united by our commitment to advancing the professional contributions of interpreters and translators in legal settings, nurturing their growth, and advocating for best practices that ensure equitable access to justice for non-English-speaking communities.

Today, we respectfully request that you consider a NO vote on AB 1032. Our apprehensions stem from the potential negative repercussions this bill may have on court interpreters in California and the individuals within the justice system who depend on language assistance due to limited English proficiency.

We stand firmly aligned with the Coalition of Working California Court Interpreters, a consortium that includes current and former members of the California Federation of Interpreters (CFI). This coalition has eloquently expressed its opposition to AB 1032, highlighting the negative impact it could have on the integrity of the state's judicial framework. You can access their 11-page opinion through the link: <https://shorturl.at/huxGQ>.

We endorse the American Translators Association's articulation of grave concerns about AB 1032, particularly its potential to jeopardize the rights of Limited English Proficient litigants by relaxing restrictions on non-certified interpreters (attached).

We also support the indigenous Mayan-language relay and direct interpreters working for the courts who have also voiced their own apprehensions about AB 1032 (attached).

We take this opportunity to stand with our esteemed colleagues in urging you to **reject AB 1032 in light of the substantial insights provided by professionals in the field of judiciary interpretation across the state and nation.**



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Your attention to this critical matter is greatly appreciated. We thank you for your dedication to maintaining the standards of justice and ensuring that justice is accessible to all members of our diverse communities. Should you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

The NAJIT Board of Directors

cc: Senator Brian Jones
Laura McGilvra, NAJIT Chair
Anahit Flanagan, NAJIT Vice Chair
Andreea Boscor, NAJIT Secretary
Nattalia Paterson, NAJIT Director