



Three Years On: Evidence Clearly Shows Lawmakers Must Stop Attacks on Independent Contractors

Allegedly “pro-worker” policies have had two primary effects: destroying the choice of self-employment and creating political backlash

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022, NEW YORK CITY—This week marks [three years](#) since California’s ABC Test-based Assembly Bill 5 was signed into law, kicking off a nationwide, union-led effort to reclassify tens of millions of self-employed Americans as employees who would then ostensibly gain traditional jobs and become eligible for unionization.

But in the three years since this anti-independent contractor push began, its primary results have been the destruction of independent contractor careers and widespread citizen backlash against lawmakers and regulators who continue to champion the idea.

“The majority of independent contractors are happy and want to remain self-employed,” says Karon Warren, a freelance writer from Georgia and co-leader of the nonpartisan, self-funded, ad hoc coalition Fight For Freelancers USA. “And yet, the attacks on our chosen careers continue from lawmakers doing the bidding of union bosses.”

Gallup [just released a survey](#) showing the majority of nonunion workers in the United States have zero interest in joining a union. Yet the talking points often repeated about anti-independent contractor policies include the need to “stop misclassification” and to create “pathways for more workers to form a union, collectively bargain to earn more and have a stronger voice at work.” This is what [California Gov. Gavin Newsom said](#) his state’s anti-independent contractor law would do. It’s what [New Jersey lawmakers said](#)

their failed attempt to copy the California law would do. It's what [federal lawmakers](#) continue to say nationwide legislation like the Protecting the Right to Organize Act (PRO Act) would do. [U.S. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh recently repeated](#) the same talking points before Congress, and National Labor Relations Board General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo recently [pushed the same talking points](#) in the press.

“This is now a whole-of-government effort to destroy independent contractor careers,” says Kim Kavin, a freelance writer and editor in New Jersey, and co-founder of Fight For Freelancers. “People pushing these policies say they want to protect us, but the evidence proves they want to misclassify us as employees to eliminate our choice of self-employment.”

[Study after study](#) shows more Americans than ever—including women and people of color—prefer to be their own bosses. Angry, frustrated independent contractors have [flooded statehouses](#) and [federal public hearings](#), demanding that lawmakers stop attacking their livelihoods.

The real-life consequences are clear: Less than a year after California's law went into effect, the state's Legislature had to [pass an emergency measure](#) ultimately exempting more than 100 professions just so legitimate independent contractors could continue earning a living as they always had in fields as wide-ranging as freelance writing, photography and graphic design. California voters, after seeing the harm done, voted 59-41% to exempt even more types of work in a [ballot measure](#).

“The largest-scale victory that unions can claim after three years of this policy on the books in California is the creation of just [66 new Teamsters union](#) members from the trucking industry,” says Jen Singer, a New Jersey freelance writer and co-founder of Fight For Freelancers. “The overwhelming, widespread result of these policies is a threat to legitimate independent contractors' livelihoods, California is still trying to deal with the mess, and voters are railing in force against this wrongheaded approach to overregulating the U.S. workforce. It needs to stop.”

#FightForFreelancers #NoABCforUSA #WhatTheHellDOL
www.fightforfreelancersusa.com [@Freelancers_USA](https://twitter.com/Freelancers_USA)

Media contacts:

Karon Warren, 706-276-3497, [@karonwarren](https://twitter.com/karonwarren), karonwarren@gmail.com

Kim Kavin, 908-975-3031, [@thekimkavin](https://twitter.com/thekimkavin), kim@kimkavin.com

Jen Singer, 973-534-0838, @jensinger, jensinger@live.com