

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [BOS-Operations](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of support for File #: 250664
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 10:57:06 AM
Attachments: [2025.06.17 CAA Support SF BOS Reso re AB 1242 \(Nguyen\).pdf](#)

Hello,

Please see below and attached for communication from Chinese for Affirmative Action regarding File No. 250664.

File No. 250664: Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1242, Language Access, authored by Assembly Member Stephanie Nguyen, to expand California's language access laws. (Walton, Fielder, Chen, Sauter, Chan)

Sincerely,

Joe Adkins
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 554-5184 | Fax: (415) 554-5163
board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

From: Anisha Hingorani <ahingorani@caasf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 7:03 PM
To: Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Gee, Natalie (BOS) <natalie.gee@sfgov.org>
Subject: Letter of support for File #: 250664

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Hello,

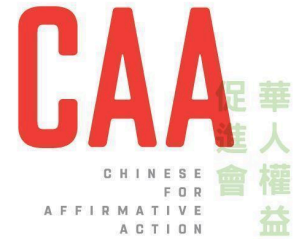
Please see attached for our letter of support.

Thank you,
Anisha

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Anisha Hingorani
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Policy Manager
she/her | (415) 651-2563
ahingorani@caasf.org



June 17, 2025

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: Support - File #250664 Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1242 (Nguyen) - Language Access

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) commends the Board resolution supporting AB 1242 (Nguyen). We thank Supervisor Walton for his leadership in introducing this resolution and to Supervisors Fielder, Chan, Chen, and Sauter for co-sponsoring the resolution. AB 1242 would address the systemic and widening disparity in the language access to services in California by ensuring individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) and individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing have meaningful access to government health and human services within the California Health and Human Service Agency (CalHHS).

CAA was founded in 1969 to protect the civil and political rights of Chinese Americans and to advance multiracial democracy in the United States. Today, CAA is a progressive voice in and on behalf of the broader Asian American and Pacific Islander community and we work on issues related to language access, immigrant rights, education equity as well as other policy issues, particularly those focused on equal access.

Recent federal attacks on our community have created an urgent and direct need for AB 1242. President Trump's Executive Order (EO) 14224 designated English as the official language of the U.S. This is the FIRST such designation in the country's history. This EO also rescinded President Clinton's Executive Order 13166, which threatens crucial access to federal, state, and local services for individuals with LEP individuals, as protected under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Weakening language access protections could exclude millions from essential services while undermining their ability to fully participate in society.

These kinds of attacks on language access issues disproportionately affect our state and vulnerable communities, as California is home to more than 6.4 million residents with LEP, including many of the community members we serve. Nearly 44% of Californians speak a language other than English at home, and 17.1% speak English "less than very well" and are considered limited English proficient. Statewide, most of these households prefer to speak Spanish, followed by Asian languages.

In our own work, we have seen firsthand how language barriers prevent individuals from accessing health care, social services, or emergency assistance. For example, we know that LEP residents experience longer wait times when trying to access public services and resources.

To address these language access barriers and increase access for communities who are LEP, AB 1242 would establish a Language Access Director within the CalHHS to provide oversight, accountability, and coordination across CalHHS' departments and offices and oversee the implementation of CalHHS's and its department's and office's language access plans to ensure individuals with LEP and individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing can access the state's health and human services programs and services. The bill would ensure guardrails for the use of AI for language access by requiring human review when using machine, online or AI-generated interpretation and translation services for all programs and services under CalHHS. Furthermore, it would also amend the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act to improve the determination of language assistance provided by state and local agencies through recommending the use of relevant data, community engagement and input, and other relevant factors.

While the state has made strides in promoting language equity, many vital public health and human services remain inaccessible to Californians who speak less commonly spoken languages—putting their health, safety, and dignity at risk. AB 1242 is a critical health equity bill that will help ensure all Californians—not just English speakers—receive the services and support they are entitled to. We urge you to support this critical legislation and help us close the gap in language access across California.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to health and well-being for all of the state's residents and to racial and health equity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anisha Hingorani', with a stylized, flowing script.

Anisha Hingorani
Policy Manager
Chinese for Affirmative Action
ahingorani@caasf.org