



CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE  
**NAACP**



**ASIAN-AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER**  
"Serving the Inland Empire's Asian-American and other ethnicities"



July 20, 2020

To: Members of the California State Legislature;  
Members of the California Congressional Delegation

Re: Our support of Proposition 22

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We respectfully and strongly urge you to support a November ballot measure, Proposition 22. Prop 22 directly protects the choice of more than one million Californians to work as independent contractors with app-based rideshare and delivery platforms, while establishing historic new earnings guarantees and benefits for these individuals.

By a 4-1 margin, California's app-based drivers prefer to continue working independently, so it's no surprise that Proposition 22 is actively supported by tens of thousands of app-based drivers, social justice advocacy organizations, public safety groups, seniors and many others because it will improve the experience and economics of on-demand work by providing drivers with new benefits and protections during these tough economic times including:

- Guaranteeing **drivers always earn 120% of the minimum wage plus expenses**
- A **new health care benefit available after just 15 hours per week**, with a stipend equivalent to the cost of a full Covered California plan paid after just 25 hours per week
- Insurance against illnesses and injuries acquired on the job **similar to workers compensation**
- **New protections against discrimination and harassment**

One million Californians choose to work as independent contractors on these platforms, with more than 80 percent driving fewer than 20 hours a week. Driving with these platforms provides an accessible, low barrier-to-entry way to earn income for those who often find traditional employment challenging – communities of color, seniors, disabled veterans and those formerly incarcerated.

A 2019 survey of drivers reported that more than half identify as coming from communities of color - 31% Latino, 14% Asian Pacific Islander and 10% African American.

California Assembly Bill 5 would threaten the ability of app-based drivers to work as independent contractors and instead force them to work as employees with set shifts and rigid schedules. Economic studies show eliminating the ability of individuals to choose app-based independent contract work and forcing a **rigid employment model will result in the loss of 900,000 app-based jobs in California.**

That's unacceptable in any economy, let alone in this economic crisis when families are struggling to make ends meet. Disadvantaged communities and communities of color will be most hurt by laws like AB 5, and it is precisely these communities that stand to benefit most from Prop 22.

With California's unemployment rate reaching a record high, the very characteristics of working with app-based rideshare and delivery platforms – especially high flexibility and low barriers to entry – have proven to be key forms of work for many lower-income families needing access to income during this current pandemic.

For that reason, we have all joined together in strong support of Proposition 22 to protect these jobs and improve the nature of independent app-based work. And we know the voters of California will stand with us.

Sincerely,

Alice Huffman, President  
**California State NAACP**

Jay King, President  
**California Black Chamber of Commerce**

Dezie Woods-Jones, President  
**Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA)**

Rick Callendar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
**California State NAACP**

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**Lift Up Love Always**

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**California State NAACP**

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**California State NAACP**

Reverend Stephen Vines, Area Director Central  
**California State NAACP & Vines of Life Church Organization**

Ron Hasson, Area Director Southwest  
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