
THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 176
Author: Ashby (D)
Introduced: 5/5/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: National Small Business Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution affirms the important role of small businesses and workplaces as vital pathways for addressing the mental health crisis, reducing stigma, promoting early intervention, and expanding culturally responsive care. This resolution recognizes May 2026 as National Small Business Month in California and encourages the people of the State of California to support small businesses. The resolution also recognizes the CalAsian Foundation and its members for their courage, innovation, and commitment to advancing mental health awareness, prevention, healing, and care across small business communities statewide.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) California faces a growing mental health crisis that impacts communities, workers, employers, and the state economy through reduced productivity, absenteeism, workforce instability, and long-term public costs.
- 2) Small businesses make up 99.8% of all California businesses and employ nearly half the private sector workforce, making them essential partners in improving mental health outcomes and strengthening overall workforce well-being.
- 3) Workplace-based mental health awareness, prevention, and early intervention are proven to improve health and well-being, reduce downstream costs, strengthen retention, and promote safer and more resilient communities.
- 4) Small businesses are among California's most powerful, yet commonly overlooked, community-based pathways to behavioral health awareness,

connection, and support, especially for populations facing stigma, cost, and cultural barriers to care.

- 5) The CalAsian Foundation has built deep trust with underserved small business communities and has served as a vital bridge between public health systems and diverse workers and families who are often bypassed by traditional mental health structures.

This resolution recognizes the month of May 2026 as National Small Business Month in California and encourages the people of the State of California to support small businesses throughout the state.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/8/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/8/26)

None received

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5/13/26 16:28:12

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