

Date of Hearing: June 1, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 176 (Ashby) – As Introduced May 5, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 38-0

SUBJECT: National Small Business Month.

SUMMARY: 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. Specifically, **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 percent 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) Small businesses, especially those in immigrant, multilingual, and culturally diverse neighborhoods, serve local residents as more than employers or providers of needed goods and services. Small businesses also act as important community centers where people who suffer from behavioral health challenges can work, connect, and find support among their colleagues and customers.
- 4) 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.
- 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) The month of May has historically been the time of year when small businesses are officially recognized and celebrated, such as during National Small Business Week, which is occurring during the first week of May 2026.
- 8) The Legislature 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.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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