



## FLOOR ALERT - SUPPORT

### AB 3254 (Limón): Protections for California Co-Signers

The California Low-Income Consumer Coalition (Sponsor) and the organizations noted above **SUPPORT AB 3254 and urge your AYE vote.**

- AB 3254 will help close a loophole in current law by protecting non-English speaking co-signers.
- When a physical contract is only in English the co-signer is not able to read the terms of the contract themselves and is more likely to be a victim to fraud. The primary signer can tell them what the terms are, but there is no way for the cosigner to confirm those terms. The co-signer then has all of the liability with none of the benefit of the contract.
- According to the Census, 44.1% of California households speak a language other than English in the home (Census data 2014-2018) and this figure is certain to rise with the 2020 Census.
- AB 3254 amends California Civil Code § 1632 by extending protections to cosigners. The bill would require non-English speaking co-signers, who do not have an uninterested interpreter to get a copy of the contract in the language they speak.
- Existing law, Civil Code § 1632 was enacted, in 1976 to increase protections for non-English speaking consumers. If a person negotiates a contract in Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, or Korean they must receive a copy of the contract in the language in which they negotiated. For example, if a consumer negotiates a contract in Spanish, they must receive a copy of the contract in Spanish.
- Civil Code § 1632 was enacted so that when a contract was negotiated in another language, the consumer could not be given a contract with different terms in English, but the code is not triggered when a contract is negotiated in English, or if an interpreter is provided by the consumer.
- Under AB 3254, if a co-signer to a contract speaks, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, or Korean, they will be given a contract in that language, unless they supply their own interpreter.
- An interpreter can be anyone supplied by the cosigner who is over 18, and not a family member to the primary signer, but a family member of the cosigner can act as a translator.

**We respectfully urge your “AYE” vote on AB 3254 (Limón):**