

September 17, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: National News Organizations Support AB-2222

Dear Governor Newsom:

As the national and state industry trade associations representing the broad business interests, economic strength and public mission of news publishers and press organizations nationwide, we urge you to sign AB-2222, the Community Newsroom Employment and Workforce Sustainability Act (Community NEWS Act).

AB-2222 offers a common-sense, news-neutral model for strengthening local journalism—one that other states can and should follow. Its greatest strength is its scope and neutrality: the bill supports the employment and retention of journalists across the full breadth of the state's news industry, without the government favoring a particular newsroom or its business model, format, or editorial viewpoint.

“News-neutrality” matters. In California's diverse news ecosystem, large and small publishers, print and digital outlets, broadcasters, nonprofits, and for-profit organizations all serve the public vital information.

AB-2222 promotes innovation, recognizes diversity, and focuses on what matters most: ensuring communities have journalists on the ground, doing the work, regardless of an individual newsroom's mechanics. That's why AB-2222 is a potential model for other state legislatures where payroll tax credits are an accepted form of job development funding.

AB-2222 supports qualifying news organizations in employing and retaining journalists, and in doing so, strengthens the capacity of communities to remain informed and engaged—without requiring the government to pick winners based on size, structure, platform, or speech.

We strongly support a news-neutral approach, and AB-2222 provides a framework that can bring together California's diverse news organizations around a shared goal: sustaining the journalists who serve the public. **We believe legislators in other states will take note.**

Journalism is essential to a functioning democracy, and individuals cannot meaningfully participate in civic life within their communities without trusted, reliable information about the institutions and issues that affect them. **AB-2222 offers a roadmap for strengthening local newsrooms and the communities they serve.**

California has long demonstrated leadership in confronting the challenges facing local journalism, and AB-2222 represents a critical, scalable, model for supporting vibrant, diverse, and sustainable local news ecosystems in communities both within California and across the country.

We urge your signature on AB-2222.

Respectfully,

- News/Media Alliance
- America's Newspapers
- Arizona Media Association
- Arkansas Press Association
- California News Publishers Association
- Colorado Press Association
- Connecticut Daily Newspaper Association
- MDDC Press Association
- Florida Press Association
- Newspaper Association of Idaho
- Illinois Press Association
- Hoosier State Press Association
- Iowa Newspaper Association
- Kansas Press Association
- Kentucky Press Association
- Louisiana Press Association
- Maine Press Association
- Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association
- Minnesota Newspaper Association
- Mississippi Press Association
- Missouri Press Association
- Montana Newspaper Association
- Nebraska Press Association
- Nevada Press Association
- New Jersey Press Association
- New Mexico Press Association
- New York News Publishers Association
- North Carolina Press Association
- North Dakota Newspaper Association
- Ohio News Media Association
- Oklahoma Press Association
- Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association
- Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association
- Rhode Island Press Association
- South Carolina Press Association
- Tennessee Press Association
- Texas Press Association
- Utah Press Association
- Vermont Press Association
- Virginia Press Association
- Washington Newspaper Publishers Association
- Wisconsin NewsMedia Association