



KOREAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE, WASHINGTON STATE

워싱턴주 한인 상공회의소



WA BUILD BACK 
BLACK ALLIANCE



October 14, 2021

Hon. Steve Kirby, Chair
House Consumer Protection & Business Committee
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia WA 98504

Hon. Mark Mullet, Chair
Senate Committee on Business, Financial Services & Trade
P.O. Box 40466
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Stop the INFORM Act, [HB 1543](#)

Dear Rep. Kirby and Sen. Mullet,

We urge you to stop the INFORM Act ([HB 1543](#)), a discriminatory bill that violates the rights of small and minority-owned businesses, criminalizes small and minority-owned businesses who are simply trying to make an honest living, and creates barriers to access and equity, much like the Voter ID and Voter Suppression bills that seek to impose significant burdens on minority voters trying to exercise their most fundamental civil right.

That's why the INFORM Act is [officially opposed](#) by the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; the US Black Chambers, Inc; the National Association for Women's Business Owners; the National Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce; the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council; the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce; and Women Impacting Public Policy.

Specifically, we urge you to stop the INFORM Act because it:

- **Violates the rights of minority and small business owners** by requiring photo identification, home addresses and private bank account information, thus exposing individuals to discrimination, harassment and possible violence. Just as Voter ID and Voter Suppression bills seek to [impose significant burdens on minority voters](#) trying to exercise their most fundamental civil right, the INFORM Act seeks to suppress the rights of minority and small business owners. It forces vulnerable groups to choose between continuing to sell online, and protecting their personal privacy and safety.
- **Creates barriers to access and has equity implications** for people who don't have government-issued IDs, including the undocumented population, the elderly, and communities of color. Up to 25% of African Americans of voting age do not have a government-issued photo ID according to the [ACLU's "Oppose Voter ID Legislation" Fact Sheet](#). Many small and minority-owned businesses that sell online do it from home, and providing the information required in the INFORM Act would mean threatening these individuals with suspension unless they posted personal and sensitive information within 24 hours.
- **Criminalizes small and minority-owned businesses** who are simply trying to make an honest living. The INFORM Act does nothing to prevent shoplifting, its purported goal. It ignores the primary source of that criminal activity, which is theft in physical stores, and it instead presumes successful online sellers are guilty of theft until proven otherwise. Small and minority-owned businesses are fed-up with attempts like the INFORM Act to criminalize essential workers who are the backbone of America's economic recovery.

Big-box stores are traveling from state-to-state to push the INFORM Act to create an advantage for large brick-and-mortar retailers, but they're tied up in court in one state, and they've failed to move the bill in seventeen other states. That's because these state legislatures know how harmful this policy would be. Punishing small and minority-owned businesses in this way would be unconscionable at any time, but it's particularly reprehensible during a pandemic, a fragile economic recovery, and a long-overdue racial reckoning.

It's hard enough for small and minority-owned businesses to compete with big-box stores. Please don't make it harder with this discriminatory bill. We strongly urge you to stop the INFORM Act.

Sincerely,

Stop the INFORM Act Coalition

