

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

March 19, 2025

The Honorable Angelique Ashby
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 456 (Ashby) Community Beautification Act
Notice of SUPPORT *(As Introduced 02/19/25)*

Dear Senator Ashby,

The City of Albany is pleased to support **SB 456 (Ashby)**, which would exempt muralists from having to obtain a contractors license through the California State Licensing Board (CSLB) before being commissioned for public and private art projects.

The City of Albany recognizes that public art and murals are proven drivers of community and economic health, attracting tourists, supporting jobs, generating revenue, and improving public safety and well-being.

However, in 2023, public [notices](#) began being issued to municipalities indicating that muralists fall within the definition of a "contractor" under Business and Professions Code section 7026. As a result, muralists must carry a contractor's license if they undertake a mural on a building for more than \$500. Additionally, per Business and Professions Code section 7028.15 (e), city staff may be fined for knowingly hiring an unlicensed muralist. Due to these licensure requirements, cities across California have had to cease or stall the implementation of mural projects.

To qualify for these commercial licenses, muralists must accumulate four years of specialized experience under a licensed contractor, pass the Law and Business examination, and pay annual licensing fees. These requirements create unnecessary barriers to work on public art projects and expose city employees and artists to fines if such requirements are not met.

The City of Albany recognizes the important role of local arts activities in community life and the impact of these activities on the social health and economic vitality of our city. This bill will allow the City to implement the Albany Murals Project which aims to enhance the visual landscape of Albany, to preserve and enrich Albany's cultural environment, and to promote community engagement through the creation of four vibrant and exciting public murals.

Muralists provide a fundamentally different service than a painting contractor, as their work is an artistic expression rather than addressing the structural integrity of a building. It is appropriate to provide a narrow exception to the state's licensing requirements for muralists, as SB 456 seeks to provide them with the flexibility to continue their artistic expression.

For these reasons, the City of Albany is pleased to support **SB 456 (Ashby)**.

Sincerely,



Robin D. López
Mayor
City of Albany

Cc: Senator Jesse Arreguin (jesse.arreguin@sen.ca.gov)
Assembly Member Buffy Wicks (assemblymember.wicks@assembly.ca.gov)
League of California Cities (cityletters@cacities.org; scaygill@calcities.org)