SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

Submit through Legislative Portal

And to Samantha.huynh@asm.ca.gov

DATE

The Honorable Mark Stone, Chair

Assembly Committee on Judiciary

1020 N Street, Room 104

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1405 (Wicks) - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Stone:

YOUR ORGANIZATION supports AB 1405, which would establish the Fair Debt Settlement Practices Act, and improve regulation and enforcement against unfair and deceptive acts and practices in the debt settlement industry.

INSERT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION AND REASON FOR SUPPORTING THE BILL.

As our state continues to struggle with the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that many Californians are facing the fear of falling behind on credit card bills. When seeking help with their debt they should not also have to face the threat of being defrauded by those who they turn to for assistance. Consumers in California all too frequently fall victim to the unrealistic and impossible promises offered in the online, direct mail, and radio advertisements of unscrupulous debt settlement companies that target people at their most vulnerable. And, those who sign up for debt settlement agreements frequently discover that they were not presented with clear disclosures of the full impact the agreement will have upon their credit. As these consumers look to the unlicensed debt settlement companies for help in getting out of debt, they find themselves in more trouble, with a damaged credit score and facing lawsuits filed by the very creditors they thought they were paying off.

AB 1405 would update current law to provide essential guardrails for an industry too often characterized by promises of relief that actually put already-struggling Californians at risk of further financial harm. Millions of Californians have been forced by the pandemic to take on debt. This bill would help prevent them from falling victim to companies that would take advantage of their economic vulnerability. The bill provides clear guidelines to protect consumers – and honest competitors – from companies engaged in harmful business practices.

For these reasons, YOUR ORGANIZATION urges an aye vote on AB 1405.

Sincerely,

NAME
TITLE
ORGANIZATION

cc: The Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary

Jith Meganathan, Consultant