

April 14, 2021

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez  
State Capitol  
Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1385—SPONSOR

Dear Assemblywoman Gonzalez,

We are writing to extend our enthusiastic support for AB 1385, the Fair Act (Free Artists from Industry Restrictions). This legislation restores the rights of California recording artists and will pave the way for a more vibrant, thriving music industry.

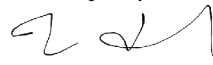

We're music managers. We are fortunate to work with both artists who household names as well as some lesser-known artists who we believe will be the future of music. We're writing to you today on behalf of all music artists in California.

Labor Code § 2855 (the "Seven Year Statute") initially protected all Californians from being held hostage to protracted agreements with onerous terms. This was the case until 1987 when the Recording Industry Association of America and its member companies forced an amendment through the California legislature that effectively excluded recording artists from the protections of the law.

The 1987 record label amendment would force any recording artist who wishes to seek the protection of the Seven Year Statute to write a check to a multi-national corporation who has the benefit of their exclusive services for seven years. It is just unfair that the cost of freedom for a recording artist, that other California workers enjoy as a matter of law, is so exorbitant. Rather than write a multi-million-dollar check, most artists just remain signed to one label for the entirety of their career or, like the incredible Ms. Lauryn Hill, they stop making music.

Thank you for your continued efforts to restoring the law to its original intent. By removing the 1987 record label amendment, you will help our state's music industry move towards a more equitable and freeing environment where competition for talent results in better music.

Sincerely,

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Larry Rudolph  
DocuSigned by:  
  
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Adam Weber