



June 7, 2019

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 418 (Kalra) – Evidentiary privileges: union agent-represented worker privilege. (SUPPORT)**

Dear Senator Jackson:

Writers Guild of America West (WGAW), on behalf of 10,000 members who write television shows, movies, news programs, documentaries and online video programming, strongly supports AB 418, which has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration. *We respectfully request your “AYE” vote on this bill when it comes before you.*

Under existing law, confidences shared with a lawyer, psychiatrist, or domestic violence counselor are privileged and protected, but communications between a union agent and represented worker are not.

When a union member consults a union representative about employment rights, the member has a legitimate expectation that the conversation will remain private. A union member who is unfairly fired or disciplined cannot effectively exercise the right to due process, absent the ability to speak confidentially to a representative. Likewise, the ability to speak confidentially is essential to a union representative’s ability to provide effective representation. Facilitating such consultations serves the broader policy purpose of resolving workplace disputes expeditiously, fairly and without litigation. If unions are to function free from undue interference by employers, union agents must be free to communicate with their members about workplace rights and grievances.

In sum, AB 418 extends a protection to communication shared between a union agent and represented worker. It contains customary exemptions for the disclosure of information necessary to prevent the commission of a crime or where required by court order. For these reasons, **we urge your support for AB 418.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

David J. Young  
Executive Director

**cc:** Members, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Assemblymember Kalra

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