

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Zhou Fang, I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1176, which requires the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to educate both businesses and the general public about the legal obligation to accept cash payments.

Despite previous legislative success in banning this inherently discriminatory practice, non-compliance remains a significant issue. Many businesses continue to openly refuse cash payments, effectively excluding many individuals from participating in the economy.

As someone who recently was in Asia, where digital wallet is dominant in the society, I was pleasantly surprised by how friendly businesses are toward cash. At first, I was nervous that the stores were going to turn me down because I didn't have a digital wallet. I was wrong. Not only was my cash accepted, I was greeted with "of course we accept cash, customers can pay however they want."

My paying experience in Asia made me realize how important it is to allow and accept payments in all shapes and forms. Cash should be accepted by all businesses because not only folks who have credit cards and digital wallets are participating in the economy, folks who use cash are, too. Think of an elderly who is only familiar with cash payments. Think of a citizen who doesn't have a bank account. Think of an underage customer who is using their birthday money to buy chocolate. It goes on.

I urge you to support SB 1176, to uphold our right to use legal tender for all debts, public and private.

Respectfully,
Zhou Fang