

G.O.P. LAWMAKERS: REPEAL AB 5 AND RESIST NATIONALIZATION OF "DISASTROUS" CONTRACTOR LAW

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Republican lawmakers gathered outside of the Employee Development Department in Sacramento on Jan. 23 to call for the repeal of AB5, the five-year old California law that reclassified gig workers and other independent contractors as W-2 employees under the state's labor code. The post G.O.P. Lawmakers: Repeal AB 5 and Resist Nationalization of "Disastrous" Contractor Law first appeared on Post News Group.

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By California Black Media

Republican lawmakers gathered outside of the Employee Development Department in Sacramento on Jan. 23 to call for the repeal of AB5, the five-year old California law that reclassified gig workers and other independent contractors as W-2 employees under the state's labor code.

Organizers said they also held the rally to push back against current efforts in Washington to pass a similar federal law.

"We are here to talk about this very important issue – a battle we have fought for many years – to stop this disastrous AB 5 policy," said Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher (R-Yuba City). Now, that threat has gone national as we have seen this new rule being pushed out of the Biden administration," Gallagher continued.

On Jan. 10, the U.S. Department of Labor issued a new rule providing guidance on "on how to analyze who is an employee or independent contractor under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)." "This final rule rescinds the Independent Contractor Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act rule (2021 IC Rule), that was published on January 7, 2021, and replaces it with an analysis for determining employee or independent contractor status that is more consistent with the FLSA as interpreted by longstanding judicial precedent," a Department of Labor statement reads.

U.S. Congressman Kevin Kiley (R-CA-3), who is a former California Assemblymember, spoke at the rally.

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"We are here today to warn against the nationalization of one of the worst laws that has ever been passed in California, which has devastated the livelihoods of folks in over 600 professions," said Kiley, adding that the law has led to a 10.5% decline in self-employment in California.

Kiley blamed U.S. Acting Secretary of Labor, July Su, who was the former secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, for leading the effort to redefine "contract workers" at the federal level.

Kiley said two separate lawsuits have been filed against Su's Rule – its constitutionality and the way it was enacted, respectively. He said he is also working on legislation in Congress that puts restrictions on the creation and implementation of executive branch decisions like Su's.

Assemblymember Kate Sanchez (R-Rancho Santa Margarita) announced that she plans to introduce legislation to repeal AB 5 during the current legislative session.

"So many working moms like myself, who are also raising kids, managing households, were devastated by the effects of AB 5 because they lost access to hundreds of flexible professions," Sanchez continued. "I've been told by many of these women that they have lost their livelihoods as bookkeepers, artists, family caregivers, designers, and hairstylists because of this destructive law."



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