

## ALC Washington Leaders Forum

In partnership with the Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL), the Association of Language Companies is heading to Capitol Hill on **May 1, 2019** to raise awareness about issues concerning our industry to policymakers in Congress. The forum will convene leaders in the Language Industry in Washington, DC who will:

- Learn about federal policy and regulatory issues facing the industry and what is being done to address them;
- Meet with Congressional policymakers and Executive Branch agencies\* with jurisdiction over issues of relevance;
- Network with fellow industry leaders to strategize solutions to shared concerns.

\*JNCL will arrange all external meetings with Congressional and Executive Branch offices on the participant's behalf.

### The Issues

- **Employee Classification.** The language industry has always relied on a workforce composed of a mix of independent contractors and regular employees, depending on the nature of the work and the language in question, among other factors. In April 2018, the [Dynamex](#) decision in the California Supreme Court fundamentally changed this for roughly a sixth of the nation's economy. The Washington Leaders Forum seeks to raise awareness of this issue and its impact on the Language Industry with policymakers. Along with the Coalition of Independent Entrepreneurs, we are advocating for a multifaceted approach that includes “harmonizing” the tax code, as well as pushing for more “portable benefits” options independent contractors.
- **Government Contracting.** The *Lowest Price Technically Available (LPTA) model* is often used to review bids for language services—a model originally designed for commodities rather than professional services. The results of this bidding model are a lower quality of language services for the consumer and lower rates for the industry's workforce. Instead, language services should be considered as a professional service and the *Tradeoff model*, also known as the *Best Value model*, should be used instead of the LPTA model. The Washington Leaders Forum will showcase this issue for policymakers from the perspective of the language industry and help promote legislation that has been introduced in Congress that deals with this issue, H.R. 3019 - the “Promoting Best Value Procurement Act”.