



## **AMWA Position Statement on Legislation That Negatively Affects the Livelihood of Freelance Medical Communicators**

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The American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) supports the right of self-employed medical communicators to practice as independent contractors. AMWA strongly disagrees with legislation that would either discourage companies from hiring freelance medical communicators or force independent contractors to become employees, which will diminish their autonomy and may cause harm to their business model and relationships.

Many medical communicators choose to be self-employed. This business relationship benefits both parties: companies can tap into the unique knowledge and expertise of independent contractors as needed for individual projects, and the self-employed business model affords medical communicators a high level of autonomy and flexibility. AMWA recognizes the legitimate concerns about worker misclassification and the exploitation of workers that can result from the gig economy. Although legislation designed to protect these workers is well intentioned, if the definition of a freelance worker is written too narrowly, it will prevent those who freely choose to work as independent contractors from continuing to operate under that business model.

While there is a need to protect exploited workers, AMWA urges legislators to ensure that the resulting laws allow those who are legitimate independent contractors by choice to continue to practice as freelance professionals.

### **About the American Medical Writers Association**

Founded in 1940, the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) is the leading professional organization for writers, editors, and other communicators of medical information. AMWA serves as a resource for professional medical communicators, promoting excellence in medical communication and providing educational resources in support of that goal. AMWA represents more than 4,000 members in the US, Canada, and 30 other countries who are committed to accurately and ethically making information about health and medicine clear and meaningful.