

**Newspapers are vital
to democracy.**

**Thankfully, some
state lawmakers appreciate this.**

**Now they need to follow through
and approve Assembly Bill 170
this week.**

California newspapers – not just your hometown daily paper but smaller papers for underserved communities – could soon face a devastating financial blow. Under a far-reaching bill that the Legislature has approved and that Gov. Gavin Newsom says he will sign, newspapers would be required to treat part-time delivery workers as full-time employees. Newspapers have already been hard-hit in the internet era. If this bill becomes law, many will go out of business – meaning there will be far fewer journalists playing their crucial role of holding the powerful accountable.

But Assembly Bill 170 would delay this crippling of the free press in California. It would give the governor, the Legislature and the newspaper industry one year to come up with rules that would be fair to both delivery workers and their employers.

The California News Publishers Association is deeply concerned that the Legislature will adjourn without helping newspapers, carriers and the communities they serve. The failure of the Legislature to act would be a tipping point in the history of California newspapers and the public's right to know.

Unless Assembly Bill 170 is passed by Friday, California newspapers will face an expensive new obstacle to their survival. If you want to help newspapers continue to perform their much-needed watchdog role, please call your state lawmakers and urge them to support AB 170.

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