

DATE 8/18/2025

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The Honorable Anna Caballero Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee State Capitol, Room 412 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 325 (Aguiar-Curry) – Cartwright Act: violations – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Caballero,

Omidyar Network, a California based philanthropic and investment organization committed to elevating humanity's interests and role in how technology is governed and held accountable, supports AB 325, which would modernize the Cartwright Act to address the use of modern technology in price fixing.

Omidyar Network's philanthropic and investment efforts have continued for more than two decades and stem from our founder's work at two great California companies, PayPal and eBay. We envision a world where our shared humanity steers our digital future. So far, we have committed more than \$1.94 billion to initiatives that share our vision.

Enacted in 1907, the Cartwright Act aims to protect Californian consumers and businesses alike from the harmful effects of monopolies and anti-competitive behavior. However, while the law has remained largely the same since its formation, the world has undergone a digital revolution. Because the Cartwright Act does not account for the development of modern technologies such as AI, algorithms, and distributed ledger, it has become easier for bad actors to conduct and hide illegal anti-competitive activity. Algorithmic pricing tools now allow businesses to coordinate prices covertly, using third-party software to drive up prices and reduce competition— ultimately harming Californians.

AB 325 will modernize and clarify the Cartwright Act to address the use of modern technology in price fixing and help enforce existing laws through common sense guardrails. By clarifying that price fixing through algorithmic collusion is just as illegal as traditional price fixing, this measure will ensure that the intent of our antitrust law is realized. AB 325 will also pave a clearer path to enforcement by codifying established legal precedent around the detection of price fixing through algorithms.

Ensuring that our anti-trust laws keep up with technological advancements is crucial to preventing powerful entities from abusing their market power. As our choices continue to shape our digital future, we have a responsibility to protect businesses and consumers by maintaining a healthy and competitive economic environment. For these reasons, we respectfully request your support for this important measure.

Sincerely,

Mike Kubzansky

CEO, Omidyar Network

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cc: Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry Members, Senate Appropriations Committee