

## Lyft and Uber Avoid Shutting Down Service in California

Last Thursday, [a California state appeals court paused a lower-court ruling](#) that would have required Uber and Lyft to reclassify their drivers as employees. Both companies said they would stop their services in the state if the court made them reclassify their workers.

**Why it matters:** This legal fight is bigger than the on-demand economy. It is about letting Americans have the option of working as independent contractors. Having such a choice gives people more freedom and flexibility than they would have if they were an employee for a company.

**Big picture:** Across the U.S., 23 million independent contractors work in industries from healthcare to construction to professional services. The vast majority of them don't work for on-demand businesses. Allowing politicians to tell millions of individuals that they can't support themselves and their families as independent contractors is wrong.

**What we did:** The U.S. Chamber [filed an amicus letter brief](#) in support of Uber and Lyft gaining more time, arguing that otherwise requiring businesses to radically restructure operations in California during appeal would irreparably harm those businesses, as well as workers and consumers in California.

**Learn more:** This [interactive map](#) offers state-by-state data on independent contractors.