

The logo of the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) is located in the top left corner. It features a stylized, circular emblem with geometric patterns, including circles and lines, in shades of purple and gold.

Coalition of Asian American Leaders

Chair John Marty
Minnesota Senate Building
3235 95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

April 24, 2025

Dear Chair Marty and Members of the Committee,

We are writing today in support of the Senate Jobs & Economic Development Omnibus bill and inclusion of the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL). Investments included in SF1832 will help CAAL scale our work to support Asian Minnesotan women entrepreneurs and Asian-American owned small businesses through training and targeted financial assistance.

Owning a small business is extremely challenging. The barriers are even higher for entrepreneurs who do not speak English as a first language, lack relationships with financial institutions, and are working to lift their families out of poverty. Many small Asian-American owned businesses in Minnesota are also deeply concerned about rising costs as inventory is often imported from China and other Asian countries.

Since 2020, CAAL has successfully helped Asian Minnesotan women entrepreneurs and small businesses get the support they need to grow and thrive. State investments included in the Senate Jobs omnibus bill will ensure CAAL is able to build on investments passed last session to grow this high-demand program, providing cohorts of up to 30 small business owners training, technical assistance, and microgrants.

We are grateful for the Senate Jobs Committee's recommendation for this targeted investment. Together, we can support families, local economies, and our whole state's prosperity.

Sincerely,

ThaoMee Xiong, Executive & Network Director
Coalition of Asian American Leaders