



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Governmental & Legislative
Affairs Director

May 26, 2015

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1051 (Maienschein) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Gomez:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 1051, which is currently on the suspense file in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. This bill would address the growing problem of human trafficking in California.

Gangs view human trafficking as a low risk and high profit enterprise. The perpetrators have become more sophisticated, utilizing social media to recruit victims, facilitate their crimes, and evade law enforcement. While pimping and pandering carry mandatory prison sentences, there is no provision in the State penal code that provides enhanced penalties for criminal street gang connections. In addition, there has been a disturbing trend that involves pimping in and around areas where young victims can be recruited; including our schools. Keep in mind, the average age of a victim that is first trafficked is between 12-14 years of age. This bill would add human trafficking as an offense that may be used to establish a pattern of criminal activity.

AB 1051 would address the growing problem and help to protect the most vulnerable in our community. For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 1051. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or at jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Ramos".

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: The Honorable Assemblyman Maienschein, California State Assembly
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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