



**County Administrative Office**  
**Governmental & Legislative Affairs**

**Josh Candelaria**  
Governmental & Legislative  
Affairs Director

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Adam C. Gray, Chair  
Governmental Organization Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 156  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**Re: AB 2202 – (Baker) – As introduced February 18, 2016 - SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Gray:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2202, legislation that would award funds to District Attorney Offices that employ vertical prosecution programs for the prosecution of human trafficking crimes.

Human trafficking is a criminal business that profits from enslaving people for sexual servitude and forced labor. It is the fastest growing and second largest criminal industry in the world today, second only to drug trafficking. Approximately 14,000 to 17,000 victims are trafficked into the United States annually.

Vertical prosecution teams are considered one of the most effective means of prosecuting human traffickers. These specialized units generally involve staff attorneys with expertise in trafficking cases that are fully capable of managing cases from arraignment to conviction, which is more effective than multiple attorneys working on various stages of prosecution. The vertical prosecution model allows attorneys to develop and maintain a rapport with victims dealing with a difficult process. Increased funding to existing vertical prosecution programs in California will provide the needed resources to further efforts in the prosecution and conviction of human traffickers.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2202 and respectfully request an "Aye" vote. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or [jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov](mailto: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: Honorable Catharine Baker  
Honorable Members and Consultants, Governmental Organization Committee  
County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation

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