



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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March 17, 2009

The Honorable Sandré R. Swanson
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 17 (Swanson)– As Introduced 12/1/08 - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Swanson:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 17. This legislation supports the punishment and deterrence of child prostitution through additional penalties and forfeitures. As you know, when an individual is convicted of soliciting prostitutes, they are guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to 6 months with a fine of up to \$1,000. AB 17 would increase the penalty by imposing a fine of no less than \$250 with a maximum of \$2,500. Under existing law, an individual convicted of pimping, pandering, or procurement of a child under 16 years of age is guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment in state prison and a fine up to \$15,000. AB 17 would increase the penalty to a fine of no less than \$2,500 with a maximum of \$250,000 per conviction.

In addition, AB 17 would also permit the court to impound any personal property used to commit the crime for a period up to 60 days. If the person has been previously convicted, the court would be authorized to order any personal property used to commit the crime forfeited. This bill would require counties to establish a sexually exploited minors fund with 50% of the additional fines and forfeitures specified in the legislation available to local law enforcement for the enforcement of specified crimes, and 50% available for community-based organizations that assist sexually exploited minors through prevention, education, counseling, job training, and life skills programs.

The legislation also permits local law enforcement agencies to release the name and photograph of any person who is who is convicted of soliciting or agreeing to engage in prostitution, pimping, pandering, or procurement of a child under 16, or human trafficking where the victim is under 18 years of age to the media.

The exploitation of our children is a deplorable act that threatens the very fabric of our culture. The safety of our children is a high priority for the County of San Bernardino and we believe this bill is an important step to protecting the innocence of our youth.

For these reasons, the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County supports AB 657. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lance Larson, the County's Director of Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821. The Board thanks you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

GARY C. OVITT
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.