



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

GEORGE GASCÓN • District Attorney
SHARON L. WOO • Chief Deputy District Attorney
JOSEPH F. INIGUEZ • Chief of Staff

DANIEL FELIZZATTO • Legislative Advocate
TAMAR TOKAT • Legislative Advocate

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The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6240
Sacramento, CA 95814

ASSEMBLY BILL 1820 (ARAMBULA) SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Arambula:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1820.

AB 1820 would establish the Labor Trafficking Unit (LTU) within the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement to receive and investigate complaints alleging labor trafficking and refer them for criminal prosecution by the Department of Justice or for civil action by the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

Labor trafficking involves the recruitment, harboring, or transportation of a person for labor services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. It is a modern-day form of slavery and a fundamental violation of human rights.

The Little Hoover Commission recently found that while several state agencies play a role in combating human labor trafficking, there is no coordinated strategy to target the crime statewide. The Commission noted that while issues related to labor exploitation in California fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), the agency does not proactively look for labor trafficking cases, in part because it does not have the authority to investigate labor trafficking cases. However, members of the Labor Enforcement Task Force – a multi-agency effort led by DIR to combat the underground economy – have observed signs of potential trafficking during inspections or received labor trafficking complaints and made nearly close to one dozen referrals of potential cases to the Department of Justice to investigate.

By establishing the LTU, AB 1820 will allow our state to take the necessary steps to properly prevent, investigate, and coordinate state efforts to put a stop to the abuses of innocent workers.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney