



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**  
**SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE**

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June 13, 2024

The Honorable Aisha Wahab  
Senate Public Safety Committee, Chair  
1020 N Street, Room 545  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1888 (ARAMBULA)**  
**SUPPORT**  
**Senate Public Safety Committee**  
**Hearing Date: June 18, 2024**

Dear Senator Wahab:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1888 (Arambula).

AB 1888 establishes the Labor Trafficking Unit (LTU) within the Department of Justice (DOJ) and requires the LTU to coordinate with the Labor Enforcement Task Force (LETF), the Tax Recovery in the Underground Economy Criminal Enforcement Program investigative teams, the Joint Enforcement Strike Force on the Underground Economy (JESF), and the Civil Rights Department (CRD).

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.

In 2020 the Little Hoover Commission released three reports reviewing the state's response to labor trafficking. The Commission noted that state efforts to combat human trafficking have focused mainly on sex trafficking. In the second report, Labor Trafficking: Strategies to Uncover this Hidden Crime, the Commission found that while several state agencies play a role in combatting human trafficking, there is no coordinated strategy to target the crime statewide. No state agency has a mandate to look for labor trafficking and government agencies are siloed. The Commission noted that while issues related to labor exploitation in California fall under the jurisdiction of the 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

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or received labor trafficking complaints and made nearly close to one dozen referrals of potential cases to the Department of Justice to investigate.

Labor traffickers purposefully prey on vulnerable communities such as immigrants, undocumented or formerly incarcerated individuals, low-income workers, and people of color.

AB 1888 will position the state to take a coordinated approach to the prevention and investigation of labor trafficking while working to protect these survivors from criminalization from unscrupulous individuals and businesses.

For these reasons, our Office is pleased to support AB 1888.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Gascón", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN  
District Attorney

cc: Assembly Member Arambula  
Eric Csizmar, Senate Republican Caucus