



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

June 22, 2022

The Honorable Steven Bradford
Senate Public Safety Committee, Chair
1020 O Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

**ASSEMBLY BILL 2553 (GRAYSON)
SUPPORT
Senate Public Safety Committee**

Dear Senator Bradford:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2553 (Grayson).

AB 2553 would establish the California Multidisciplinary Alliance to Stop Trafficking Act (California MAST) to examine and evaluate existing programs and outreach for survivors and victims of human trafficking and provide recommendations to strengthen California's response to supporting survivors and holding offenders accountable.

California is one of the nation's top destination states for trafficking human beings. In 2020 alone, the National Human Trafficking Hotline reported that they received nearly 5,000 calls from the California alone with over 1,300 human trafficking cases reported that year.

The Little Hoover Commission held hearings on the issue of human trafficking in California and issues a report on the state's lack of coordinated response to human trafficking. The report found:

The state lacks a coordinated strategy to target the crime of labor trafficking. The Commission believes it is past time for California to create a mechanism for coordinating the anti- trafficking efforts of all government agencies – state, local, and federal – and non- governmental organizations that do critical on-the-ground work to identify victims and help survivors. There must be a hub to coordinate efforts, collect data, increase public awareness, and share strategies to fight and prevent all forms of this crime.

To accomplish these goals, the Commission recommends that the state create the California Anti- Human Trafficking Council within the Governor's Office. The Council should be broad-based, and should include representatives of law enforcement, health and human service agencies, victim advocates and others. It

June 13, 2022

Page Two

should include state and local representatives and reflect the diverse regions and populations of California. Last, it should be provided with adequate staffing and meet with sufficient frequency to fulfill its mission. This mission should include, among other tasks, developing public awareness, collecting data, improving training guidelines, and developing standardized screening tools for industries in which trafficking is prevalent.

AB 2553 combines prosecution, victim resources, and public awareness approaches to develop best practices to combat the problem of human trafficking. This type of coordination will lead to better outcomes for trafficking survivors, enable more effective prosecutions, and continue to spread public awareness of human trafficking.

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 Grayson
Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Eric Csizmar, Senate Republican Caucus