



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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June 28, 2023

The Honorable Dave Cortese
Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee, Chair
1021 O Street, Room 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

ASSEMBLY BILL 380 (ARAMBULA) SUPPORT

Dear Senator Cortese:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 380 (Arambula).

AB 380 establishes the Labor Trafficking Unit (LTU) within the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) and requires the LTU to coordinate with the Labor Enforcement Task Force (LETF), the Department of Justice (DOJ), 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 or received labor trafficking complaints and made nearly close to one dozen referrals of potential cases to the Department of Justice to investigate.

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By establishing the LTU, AB 380 will allow California 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,

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

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney

cc: Assembly Member Arambula