



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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July 3, 2023
Senator Susan Rubio
1021 O Street, Suite 8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Bill 545
SUPPORT

Dear Senator Rubio:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Senate Bill 545 (Rubio).

Child Protective Services estimates that 63,000 children in the United States are sexually abused each year, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimate that one in six endangered runaways are likely child sex trafficking victims. Despite the traumatic experiences they endure, child sex crime victims who attack their abusers are too often prosecuted as adults and face long prison sentences.

SB 545 would prohibit the juvenile court from transferring a matter to criminal court if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person against whom the minor is accused of committing the offense trafficked, sexually abused, or sexually battered the child before the commission of the offense. The bill would further require the criminal court to transfer a case back to the juvenile court if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person against whom the minor is accused of committing the offense trafficked, sexually abused, or sexually battered the child.

Children who lash out against their abusers should be provided with treatment and services in a trauma-informed system designed to help youth.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Tamar Tokat in our Legislative Office at 916-442-0668.

Very Truly Yours,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney