



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

April 12, 2017

The Hon. Mark Stone
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

BY FAX (916) 319-2188
BY EMAIL TO: Eric.Dang@asm.ca.gov

RE: SUPPORT FOR AB 1495

Dear Chair Stone,

I am pleased to support AB 1495 (Maienschein), a bill that will help curb the demand for commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

CSEC are not children passing as adults. On average, girls are between the ages of 12 and 14, and boys are between the ages of 11 and 13, when they fall victim to sex trafficking.¹ Three of the nation's sex trafficking "hubs" are located in California: San Diego, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.²

Sex trafficking is a growing industry. In San Diego alone, sex trafficking is an \$810 million a year industry.³ Criminal sanctions have not deterred this industry because it is extremely lucrative.

California has been a leader in recognizing that children who are trafficked are victims rather than criminals. We must also curb the demand to reduce the number of children being commercially sexually exploited. AB 1495 (Maienschein) enacts an explicit civil cause of action targeting child rapists by providing victims and law enforcement agencies the opportunity to hold child rapists and their adult commercial allies accountable through the courts. AB 1495 permits suits for significant money penalties (up to \$50,000), damages, and attorney's fees, and makes it easier to obtain restraining orders for victims.

We respectfully urge your support for AB 1495.

Sincerely,

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

cc: Hon. Members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee
Assemblymember Brian Maienschein

¹ http://www.heatwatch.org/human_trafficking/statistics

² <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/FreedomDenied.pdf>

³ <http://www.nbcсандiego.com/news/local/San-Diego-Sex-Trafficking-an-180M-Underground-Industry-Study-337293541.html>