



AB 12 – Trafficking of Minors

Sandre Swanson (D-Oakland)

CWA Position – Support

Talking Points

1. AB 12 will enact the Abolition of Child Commerce, Exploitation, and Sexual Slavery Act of 2011 (ACCESS). The measure requires persons convicted of seeking to procure or procuring a prostitute under the age of 18 years to pay an additional fine of up to \$25,000 to be used to fund programs to assist sexually-exploited minors in the counties where the offenses occurred.
2. By stiffening the penalty for selling human beings into what is essentially sexual slavery, AB 12 will provide greater deterrence while assisting the efforts of organizations who are helping to rescue victims and restore their lives.
3. Trafficking in persons is equivalent to modern-day slavery. Sex traffickers lure victims from their poverty-stricken homes with the promise of good jobs, money, food, marriage or educational opportunities and then are forced into slave labor or prostitution. Others are sold by family members for compensation. Many from other countries cannot speak English and in their country of origin have been programmed to distrust law enforcement. Many are our own children, drawn by promises of fame, money, or love. Once drawn into the web of trafficking, they are isolated, mistreated, coerced and convinced they cannot escape. Assemblyman Sandre Swanson, the bill's author, has said, "Countless children, from foster youth to runaways from more affluent neighborhoods are being trapped, sold and mercilessly abused for profit. There are even reports that the number of children kidnapped for sexual exploitation has increased. We need to make this enterprise a losing proposition for everyone involved."
4. Among numerous statistics, AB 12 notes:
 - California has become a major hub of international and domestic interstate human trafficking.
 - Children are not safe from trafficking and exploitation, with some of the children trafficked as young as four years old and many more only 11 or 12 years of age.
 - Researchers agree that internationally the median age for the entrance of girls into prostitution is 14 years of age. In the United States, the ages vary from state to state, and in California the average age is about 12 years old.

For more facts on this issue, please review the many articles and multimedia offerings on the Beverly LaHaye Institute's [Pornography and Sex Trafficking page](#).

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