



AB 16 – Trafficking - Sexual Exploitation of Minors

Sandre Swanson (D-Oakland)

CWA Position – Support

Talking Points

1. AB 16 adds soliciting or agreeing to engage in an act of prostitution with a person under 18 years of age, pimping a minor, pandering a minor, and procuring a minor to the definition of a serious and a violent felony. Thus, under AB 16, conviction of any of these crimes will incur a strike under California’s “Three Strikes” law.
2. By stiffening the penalty for selling human beings into what is essentially sexual slavery, AB 16 will provide greater deterrence, particularly with regard to bringing the crimes pimping, pandering and procuring minors under the umbrella of the “Three Strikes” law.
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. Once drawn into the web of trafficking, they are isolated, mistreated, coerced and convinced they cannot escape. Assemblyman Sandre Swanson, the bill’s author, 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.”

For more facts on this issue, please review the following articles:

[The Horrifying Reality of Sex Trafficking](#)

[Ending Modern-Day Slavery: Some Solutions to Sex Trafficking](#)

[Prostitution in Your Neighborhood: Why Local Police Should Enforce the Law](#)

[Desperate for Love: The Tragedy of Sexual Trafficking](#) by Chuck Colson

[Modern-Day Slavery: A Task Bigger than Wilberforce’s](#) *Breakpoint Worldview Magazine*

[Coming to a Truck Stop Near You: Child Prostitutes in the U.S.](#) *National Review Online*

For additional resources and research on trafficking [click here](#).

**CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA
OF CALIFORNIA**