



AB 17 – Trafficking – Increasing Penalties for Exploitation of Minors

Sandre Swanson (D-Oakland)

CWA Position – Support

Talking Points

1. The original language of AB 17 was amended on April 22. The current language, though not as strong as the original, is still an important step in helping to fight the scourge of sexual trafficking. The new version of AB 17 increases the maximum penalties for the conviction of pimping, pandering and procurement of minors from \$5,000 to \$20,000. It also adds “abduction or procurement by fraudulent inducement for prostitution” to the definition of criminal profiteering, allowing law enforcement to seize property from convicted traffickers and help remove the profit motive for selling people.
2. Cutting demand is of critical importance in reducing trafficking, and AB 17 helps toward this goal by increasing penalties for procurement.
3. In addition to the greater deterrence through additional penalties, AB 17 also helps meet the needs of trafficking victims by ensuring that a portion of grant funds from the Office of Emergency Services for child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse victim counseling is designated for minor victims of sexual trafficking.
4. We must take every opportunity not only to bring those who engage in the sale of humans to justice, but also assist those who have been harmed. This measure will aid the fight against sexual trafficking and help young men and women, boys and girls recover from this devastating exploitation.
5. 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](#).

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