



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 14, 2016

The Honorable Reginald B. Jones-Swayer, Sr.
California State Assembly, Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street (LOB), Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 1771 (O'Donnell) – Prostitution

Dear Chairman Jones-Swayer, Sr.:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 1771 (O'Donnell). This bill would combat commercial sex trade by increasing the maximum penalty for the misdemeanor crime of supervising sex trafficking victims from 6 months to a year. Long Beach supports increasing penalties for those involved in aiding and abetting sex with a minor that prove effective in curtailing these crimes, and we believe AB 1771 would meet this objective.

While human traffickers are subject to felony prosecution, this charge is only applied on relatively few occasions because sex trafficking victims often do not cooperate with law enforcement. This is especially true in cases where the trafficker is an active gang member and the victim fears retaliation from the gang. In cases where victims do not provide statements against the trafficker, only the misdemeanor charge with a maximum sentence of 6 months in county jail can be filed. By increasing the punishment to 12 months in jail, AB 1771 would close a loophole that currently allows serious criminals avoid accountability for their crimes.

AB 1771 would help protect the victims of this underground sexual abuse. By holding offenders more accountable, the victims of sex trafficking would have a better opportunity to heal and recover their lives. Long Beach is supportive of increasing the maximum penalty for this crime.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 1771.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Garcia", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District
The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly, 63rd District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
562.570.6801 | info@longbeach.gov | @LBMayorsOffice
333 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, California 90802

