



March 14, 2022

Senator Shannon Grove
1021 N Street, Room 7150
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Grove:

As Chief of Police for the City of Fresno, I am writing to extend my support of your legislation, SB 1042. This important bill will include human trafficking in the lists of crimes that are defined as serious and violent under California law, making the crime a strike under the Three Strikes law. It will also help strengthen protections for the millions of victims of sex and labor trafficking.

California consistently ranks number one in the nation in the number of human trafficking cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The California Attorney General notes that California is one of the largest sites for human trafficking in the United States, recognizes the serious nature of this crime, and has defined it as "modern day slavery." Human trafficking is among the world's fastest growing criminal enterprises and is estimated to be a \$150 billion-a-year global industry. It is a form of modern day slavery that profits from the exploitation of our most vulnerable populations.

SB 1042 will give a voice to the millions of victims that have suffered from this horrific abuse. This bill will fight to protect victims, strengthen prevention and increase the prosecution of those who buy and sell human beings. It is about time that California starts to prosecute these horrendous acts as serious and violent crimes.

For all of the reasons stated above, I support SB 1042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paco Balderrama".

Paco Balderrama
Chief of Police