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**OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**
**SUMMER STEPHAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

DWAIN D. WOODLEY
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Shannon Grove
California State Senate
1021 N Street, Room 7150
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1042 (GROVE) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Grove:

The San Diego County District Attorneys office would like to thank you for authoring this life saving legislation. Our office is in strong support of SB 1042. This bill will include human trafficking to the list 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.

Here in San Diego we are particularly mindful of the harm done to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking and the services necessary to effectively treat them. In San Diego County, human trafficking is the second largest underground economy after drug trafficking. Our city was recently identified by the FBI as one of the top 13 high intensity child prostitution areas in the nation.

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. These horrendous acts should be deemed serious and violent crimes.

The Office of the San Diego County District Attorney supports SB 1042 because it will ensure that our most vulnerable victims will enjoy the full protection California's sentencing laws which include increased sentences for continued recidivism, reduced custody credits and limitations on plea bargaining. Currently, crimes such as kidnapping, robbery, rape and assault are all, rightfully, strike offenses. However, the crime of human trafficking also involves the deprivation of liberty through the use of force, fear, fraud, deceit, coercion, violence, duress, menace or threat. Human trafficking bears similarities to other strike offenses such as kidnapping, robbery, rape and assault. Serious felonies and strike felonies represent the category of California felonies demonstrated to be the highest priority criminal offenses in the state. The crime of human trafficking deserves to be included on both of these statutory lists.

Sincerely,

If you have any questions, please call Chief Deputy Patrick Espinoza, at (619) 417-3047.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Summer Stephan".

Summer Stephan
San Diego County District Attorney