



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SHERIFF-CORONER DON BARNES

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

March 7, 2022

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

RE: SUPPORT SB 1042: Human Trafficking – Serious and Violent Felony

Dear Senator Grove:

I am writing to advise you of my support for your Senate Bill 1042, which would include human trafficking among the crimes that are defined as serious and violent under California law. This redefinition will make the crime of trafficking a strike under California's Three Strikes law.

Human trafficking is modern day slavery. Stopping this crime is a top priority for Orange County law enforcement. Our mission to stop and prevent this serious crime will be most successful if the consequences enumerated in state law reflect the severity of this act of inhumanity. Current law falls short. California consistently ranks number one in the nation in the number of human trafficking cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Eliminating trafficking in California would make a substantial impact on this estimated \$150 billion-a-year criminal global industry.

By fully holding accountable those in this illicit industry, your bill will keep traffickers off our streets and detour future participation in the buying and selling of human beings. Also importantly, if approved, SB 1042 will provide the victims of trafficking with the opportunity for justice.

Thank you for introducing this necessary legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Don Barnes'.

Don Barnes
Sheriff-Coroner

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