



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

March 21, 2022

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

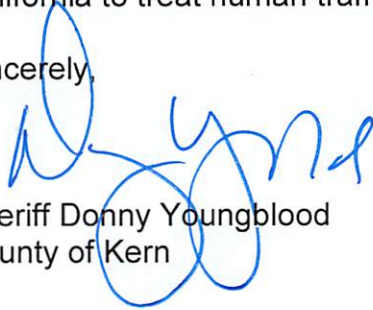
Dear Senator Grove,

I support your proposed legislation, SB 1042. This important bill will include human trafficking in 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.

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 has defined human trafficking as "modern day slavery" and notes that California is one of the largest sites for human trafficking in the United States. 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 indeed modern-day slavery and exploits our most vulnerable populations.

SB 1042 will give voice to the millions of victims who have suffered horrific abuse as a result of human trafficking. This bill fights to protect victims, strengthens prevention, and will result in the prosecution of those who buy and sell human beings. It is time for California to treat human trafficking as the serious and violent crime it truly is.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

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