

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Darrell Steinberg
Mayor



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CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

March 13, 2018

RE: AB 1913 (Kalra) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Kalra:

I am writing in support of AB 1913 (Kalra). As the author of SB 477 (2014), I am writing to express that the legislative intent of SB 477 was to cover all temporary foreign workers coming to California through the foreign labor recruitment process on a wide range of visa categories including H2A workers. The bill was never intended to be limited to coverage of just H2B workers. It is imperative that the legislature take immediate steps to pass AB 1913, a technical fix, which will implement the legislature's intent in 2014 that *all* foreign labor contractors (FLCs) recruiting individuals for work in California, with two narrow exceptions, are subject to SB 477's requirements.

I am highly concerned that the Chamber of Commerce and other Business Associations are now formally opposing the legislative fix in AB 1913. In 2013, I and my staff were part of numerous conversations with the business interests that vigorously opposed the bill. Because of these negotiations, there were two narrow exceptions to the visa categories included in SB 477 expressly excepted from SB 477's coverage. The first was for talent agencies as they were already regulated by a licensing process in California. The second was for Foreign Labor Recruiters bringing individuals to California on J-1 visas. These two exceptions are explicit in the bill statutory language, and they make clear our intent to cover all other categories of workers.

SB 477 as sent to the Governor and signed into law was intended to protect the 130,000 workers coming to California on temporary visas. It was not crafted to protect less than 2% of these workers. The scourge of human trafficking and labor exploitation continues to plague California and our nation, especially during this time of uncertainty for immigrants seeking genuine opportunity in our vast economy.

To that end we must redouble our focus to ensure workers are protected. Ensuring the final regulations stand to benefit the broadest range of workers as SB 477 intended will protect the broad range of workers who come to California and will help keep California on the cutting edge of fighting against human trafficking.

Thank you for your attention – and your ongoing efforts to protect California's diverse global workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Steinberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darrell Steinberg
Mayor, City of Sacramento