



COALITION TO  
ABOLISH SLAVERY  
& TRAFFICKING

## RECONVENING THE CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY TASK FORCE (SB 35 Chang)

### **Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery with a significant impact in California—**

- **The crime of human trafficking is prevalent in California.** According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, during the period 2012-2018, California has consistently ranked at the top of its hotline calls. In 2017, the hotline received nearly 4,000 calls from California, resulting in just over 1,300 human trafficking cases reported. That number represents a nearly 265% increase in reported cases since 2012.
- **California is particularly vulnerable to human trafficking** because of factors such as a large runaway and homeless youth populations, proximity to international borders, the number of ports and airports, a substantial immigrant population, and the fifth largest economy in the world.
- The scourge of **human trafficking impacts all races, ethnicities, gender and age.** It cuts at the very fiber of civil society and challenges the resources of law enforcement, the courts, and social service providers to respond to the needs of these vulnerable populations.

### **Background:**

- In 2004, California enacted its first anti-trafficking law, which inter alia, established the **California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Slavery (CA ACTS) Task Force**. Its 2005 report laid the ground work for a coordinated, collaborative response to ending sex and laboring trafficking in California, providing help and hope to its many victims.
- The Task Force convened again by legislative action in 2007, and once again in 2012 under the leadership of then-state Attorney General Kamala Harris. Each time, representatives from government and private sector agencies identified legislative, policy, and civil and criminal justice strategies, as well as support for social services as key elements of a holistic response to ending human trafficking in California.

### **The Bill supports on-going efforts to respond to and ultimately prevent human trafficking by:**

- **Revitalizing the Task Force** to include policy makers as well as survivors, first responders and human services providers to offer critical input in developing outcomes and performance measures for existing programs and outreach; shaping future policy; and recommending how resources should be allocated in order to strengthen California's unified responses to supporting survivors and holding offenders accountable.
- **Laying the ground work for a prevalence study** for California by directing the Task Force to assess the cost of such a study and recommend an entity to conduct the study and the frequency with which the study should be done in the future. There is no definitive data on the scope of sex and labor trafficking in California. In order to craft impactful policy responses and allocate resources to target the greatest needs, it is critical to understand exactly the scope and demographics of human trafficking.
- **Garnering a better understanding of the impact of California's human trafficking prevention efforts** by engaging the Task Force to recommend the specifics of an evaluation of CAL OES-funded service providers.
- **Bringing into focus the issue of forced criminality**, particularly in the areas of prostitution, drugs, theft and benefits fraud. The Bill directs the Task Force to recommend strategies to strengthen efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and assist victims, and prosecute traffickers.

### **For more information, contact the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking:**

Stephanie Richard, Policy & Legal Services Director, (213) 365-5249 [Stephanie@castla.org](mailto:Stephanie@castla.org)

Ellen Kramer, Senior Policy Counsel (213) 365-5249 [Ellen@castla.org](mailto:Ellen@castla.org)

Kay Buck, Executive Director, (213) 365-0887 [Kay@castla.org](mailto:Kay@castla.org)