May 5, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for $30 Million to Assist Human Trafficking Survivors during COVID-19

Dear Governor Newsom:

The undersigned legislators respectfully request a $30 million allocation to address the specific health and safety needs of labor and sex trafficking survivors in California. As economic conditions worsen due to COVID-19, labor and sex trafficking victims currently being trafficked are facing increasingly unsafe, harsh, and exploitive working conditions. Resulting high unemployment rates from this crisis will likely produce an increase in the number of individuals recruited into sex and labor trafficking. Since trafficking survivors are unlikely to have access to traditional social safety nets during this time, it is important that we commit necessary resources to reach this particularly vulnerable community during this pandemic.

Specifically, we request:

- $21 million to current Cal-OES grantees providing services for human trafficking victims;
- $3 million to launch a statewide hotline, technical assistance, and referral program for those seeking information and services and to report human trafficking abuse; and
- $6 million for additional on the ground outreach and training to first responders across the state on identification and early prevention of human trafficking.

A $30 million allocation would echo California’s determination to prevent vulnerable communities from falling through the cracks, and enable organizations and first responders across the state to effectively respond to the urgent needs of trafficking survivors during this pandemic.
We commend your administration’s response to the needs of California’s homeless, foster youth, and undocumented immigrant populations and ask that you extend such support to labor and sex trafficking survivors.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

MIGUEL SANTIAGO
Assembly Member, 53rd District

Mike Gipson
Assembly Member, 64th District

ELOISE GOMEZ REYES
Assembly Member, 47th District

BOERNER-HORVATH
Assembly Member, 76th District

LUZ RIVAS
Assembly Member, 39th District

DAVID CHIU
Assembly Member, 17th District

JIM PATTERSON
Assembly Member, 23rd District

TOM LACKEY
Assembly Member, 36th District

ROB BONTA
Assembly Member, 18th District

SHARON QUIRK-SILVA
Assembly Member, 65th District
FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ  
Assembly Member, 52nd District

CRISTINA GARCIA  
Assembly Member, 58th District

JORDAN CUNNINGHAM  
Assembly Member, 35th District

EDUARDO GARCIA  
Assembly Member, 56th District

KEN COOLEY  
Assembly Member, 8th District

MONIQUE LIMON  
Assembly Member, 37th District

TOD GLORIA  
Assembly Member, 78th District

REBECCA BAUER-KAHAN  
Assembly Member, 16th District

BEN HUESO  
Senator, 40th District