



## **AB 2207 – Commercially sexually exploited children**

### **SUMMARY**

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AB 2207 will require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to release a quarterly progress report detailing the results of services and programs implemented to help Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC).

### **BACKGROUND**

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In CDSS's 2017 Report to the Legislature promising strategies were illustrated, but significant disparities were discovered between counties, both in identifying CSEC and offering secure, trauma-informed placements. These disparities are especially prevalent among some of the most vulnerable subpopulations of CSEC, which include people of color, females, and LGBT.

California is home to three of the nation's thirteen high intensity trafficking areas as identified by the FBI: San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. In San Diego alone, sex trafficking is an \$810 million per year industry.

A specialty juvenile court in Los Angeles, Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court, found a strong link between CSEC and the local child welfare agency. The California Child Welfare Council has stated that between 80 and 95% of CSEC victims are known to Child Welfare. The dilemma California now faces is that the dependency system is not equipped to address the many unique needs of the CSEC population.

California must now take steps to ensure CSEC victims receive the assistance the state has acknowledged that they urgently need. Although these supports are vital, there has been little progress in meeting these needs and there is no set timetable by which they must be met.

The human trafficking industry is a criminal enterprise that leaves a trail of devastation throughout California, and whose victims suffer immeasurably at the hands of their abusers. We need consistent trauma-sensitive services, programs, and placements for all CSEC, to prevent these victims from being re-abused by traffickers.

### **THIS BILL**

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AB 2207 will hasten consistent quality services for CSEC victims through quarterly reports by CDSS of county progress toward implementing safe and appropriate policies.

### **SUPPORT**

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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