**PLACE THIS ON YOUR ORGANIZATION’S LETTERHEAD**

**DATE**

The Hon. Mark Stone

Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee

1020 N Street, Room 104

Sacramento, CA 95814

**BY FAX (916) 319-2188**

**BY EMAIL TO: Eric.Dang@asm.ca.gov**

**RE: *SUPPORT FOR AB 1495***

Dear Chair Stone,

The INSERT NAME OF PERSON OR ORGANIZATION is pleased to support AB 1495 (Maienschein), a bill that will help curb the demand for commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

CSEC are not children passing as adults. The average age of girls when they begin to be sexually trafficked is 12- 14 years; for boys the average age is 11 to 13 years old.[[1]](#footnote-1) Three of the nation’s sex trafficking “hubs” are located in California: San Diego, San Francisco, Los Angeles.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The problem is vast. For example, a recent study found that in San Diego alone, sex trafficking is an $810 million a year industry.[[3]](#footnote-3) Criminal sanctions haven’t proven enough to overcome these profits.

California has been a leader in recognizing that children who are trafficked are victims rather than criminals. But, we must also curb the demand to reduce the number of children being commercially sexually exploited. AB 1495 (Maienschein) enacts an explicit civil cause of action targeting child rapists by offering victims and law enforcement a realistic and credible chance to sue child rapists and their adult commercial allies. The bill permits suits for significant money penalties (up to $50,000), damages, and attorneys fees. The bill also makes it easier for victims to be protected by restraining orders.

We respectfully urge your support for AB 1495.

Sincerely,

**YOUR NAME, TITLE AND ORGANIZATION**

CC: Hon. Members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee

 Assemblymember Brian Maienschein (Erin.donnette@asm.ca.gov)

1. http://www.heatwatch.org/human\_trafficking/statistics [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/FreedomDenied.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/San-Diego-Sex-Trafficking-an-180M-Underground-Industry-Study-337293541.html [↑](#footnote-ref-3)