



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

April 17, 2025

The Honorable Maggy Krell
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0006

Re: Support for AB 379 (Krell) — Crimes: prostitution.

Dear Assemblymember Krell,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City strongly supports AB 379, the Survivor Support and Demand Reduction Act, which will provide new resources for survivors of sex trafficking and encourage stronger enforcement actions to deter the individuals fueling this crisis.

Human and sex trafficking are intolerable in any community. At the center of this crisis are the victims, who are disproportionately girls and woman of color, children from the foster care system, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. The City has worked diligently alongside dedicated community-based organizations, law enforcement, and educational leaders to address sex and human trafficking hot spots within the community, while providing support to victims and those impacted by this cycle of violence.

Outreach and awareness campaigns conducted by the City's Department of Health and Human Services have encouraged victims to come forward and receive comprehensive supportive services. Every individual's experience is unique, and the City offers a wide range of services including counseling and trauma therapy, GED tutoring, tattoo removal, and ongoing court advocacy. Collaborative partnerships with local and regional nonprofits have been critical in ensuring victims feel safe and empowered during these challenging experiences. The Survivor Support Fund created by AB 379, will further ensure victims of sex trafficking have the resources and confidence they need to pursue their own personal goals and economic opportunities.

AB 379 will also help guide individuals charged with a crime into diversion programs, creating additional opportunities for growth and intervention. In Long Beach, the City Prosecutor's Office already provides court diversion programs for eligible individuals, ensuring there are no additional barriers on the individuals' path to recovery.

By making loitering with the intent to purchase commercial sex a misdemeanor, AB 379 will hold those found sustaining this industry accountable for their participation. Prioritizing enforcement on those with the means and power to exploit individuals caught in this cycle of violence will increase the consequence of participating in these heinous acts, while steering the victims of abuse and human trafficking into services, not jail. The people who fuel this industry need to be held accountable. For these reasons, the City supports AB 379.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

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