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California State Senate

SENATOR
DARRELL STEINBERG
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT

STANDING COMMITTEES:
SENATE RULES
CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY



October 31, 2013

David Finigan, President
California State Association of Counties
1100 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President Finigan:

I write to request your help in distributing the attached letter to your membership--California's counties. The letter is co-authored by Attorney General Kamala Harris and relates to a bill I authored to combat human trafficking, Senate Bill 1193, Chapter 515, Statutes of 2012.

Though human trafficking is illegal under federal and state law, victims often do not know where to turn for help and community members may not know where to report suspicious situations. Because of this fact, California law now requires various public and private entities to post notices publicizing toll free hotline numbers that victims or members of the public can call. The entities that are required to post the notice can easily download it from the Attorney General's website.

Studies show that in states where such posting requirements have been enacted, there has been an uptick in the number of reported trafficking situations and rescues of victims. In that context, we have a real opportunity to help fight the scourge of human trafficking by promoting awareness of and compliance with the requirements of SB 1193. I appreciate your assistance in distributing the attached letter to your members. If you have any questions, please contact my staff, Margie Estrada, at margie.estrada@sen.ca.gov or 916.651.4170.

I thank you for your efforts in fighting human trafficking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Steinberg".

DARRELL STEINBERG
President Pro Tempore

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October 31, 2013

California State Association of Counties
1100 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear California County:

We write to inform you of the requirements enacted by SB 1193 (Steinberg), Chapter 515, Statutes of 2012, and request your assistance in ensuring that affected entities within your regulatory jurisdiction are made aware of the requirements and do, in fact, comply.

Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing criminal enterprise and is an estimated \$32 billion-a-year global industry. After drug trafficking, human trafficking is the world's second most profitable criminal enterprise, a status it shares with illegal arms trafficking. Like drug and arms trafficking, the United States is one of the top destinations for trafficking in persons.

California – a populous border state with a significant immigrant population and the world's eighth largest economy – is one of the nation's top four destination states for trafficked persons. Though human trafficking is illegal under federal and California law, victims often do not know where to turn for help and community members may not know where to report suspicious situations.

Thus, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, SB 1193 last year which requires various public and private entities to post notices publicizing toll-free hotline numbers that victims or members of the public can call. Entities required to post the notice can easily download it from the Attorney General's website: <https://oag.ca.gov/human-trafficking/sb1193>.

Per SB 1193, any local agency with authority to regulate an entity that is required to post the notice can help ensure compliance with the law by informing affected entities of the requirements and potential violations. For example, if you have any regular workshops, bulletins, handbooks, guides, or other materials you use to inform regulated entities about laws, we urge you to consider including the requirements of SB 1193.

Moreover, we urge you, as part of your normal regulatory activities, to be on the lookout for potential violations and ensure affected entities are posting the required notice. SB 1193 authorizes local agencies to provide notices of non-compliance, allowing 30-days to cure, and provides for civil penalties against those who continue to flout the law. Please refer to the statute for specific requirements of the law.

Studies show that in states where such posting requirements have been enacted, there has been an uptick in the number of reported trafficking situations and rescues of victims. In that context, we have a real opportunity to help fight the scourge of human trafficking by promoting awareness of and compliance with the requirements of SB 1193. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to partnering with you in the fight against human trafficking.

Sincerely,



DARRELL STEINBERG
President pro Tempore of the Senate



KAMALA HARRIS
California Attorney General

DS/KH: me