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Senate Bill 584 Fact Sheet – Labor Trafficking Training for Foster Families

SUMMARY

SB 584 expands resource family training to include child labor trafficking education for foster parents who care for children who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, human trafficking.

BACKGROUND

California is a hotspot for human trafficking due to the state's close proximity to the border, number of ports and airports, large runaway and homeless youth populations, significant immigration population, and prosperous economy. According to the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#), for the past five years, California leads the nation in human trafficking cases – by a wide margin.

Labor trafficking represents a significant portion of human trafficking in California. Some [estimates](#) indicate that labor trafficking could account for as much as 39% of all human trafficking cases in the state. Child labor trafficking specifically proves to be a troubling issue. A [study](#) sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice titled "Looking for a Hidden Population: Trafficking Migrant Laborers in San Diego County" (2012) reveals that over 10,000 youth aged 16-25 were victims of labor trafficking in San Diego County alone. The present-day number is likely much higher.

PROBLEM

Children in the foster care system are particularly at risk of child labor trafficking. A Ten-City [Study](#) on Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth indicates that youth who have a history of involvement in the foster care system accounted for 26% of all youth who were labor trafficked.

The legislature passed AB 865 (Reyes – 2019), which expanded resource family training for foster parents

to care for children who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, human trafficking. This bill requires foster families to attend a training on how to use best practices for providing care and supervision to children who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, commercial sexual exploitation. However, the chaptered version of the bill did not include training on child *labor* trafficking, despite its prevalence in California, specifically among foster youth.

SOLUTION

SB 584 will address the deficiency in current law by requiring resource family training to include child labor trafficking, in addition to the existing training on commercially sexually exploited children. This training will be required for foster parents that care for children aged 10 and older.

It is imperative that foster parents are provided with comprehensive training that focuses on the diverse needs of foster youth. The expanded training created by this bill will ensure foster parents are educated and equipped to care for foster youth who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, all forms of child trafficking and protect them from becoming a terrifying statistic.

SUPPORT

Little Hoover Commission
Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking
Crime Survivors Resource Center

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