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June 21, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of SB 357 (Wiener) - Loitering for the Purpose of Engaging in Prostitution

Dear Governor Newsom:

We respectfully request your veto of Senate Bill 357, which repeals existing criminal statutes pertaining to loitering with intent to engage in prostitution, as well as directing or supervising an individual engaged in loitering with intent to engage in prostitution.

While the intent of this legislation is to eliminate perceived profiling, the legislation's unintended consequence will be for it to embolden human traffickers and those seeking to purchase sex. The bill repeals Penal Code section 653.22 discourages prostitution, gets trafficking victims off the street and away from the individuals that hold them captive or take advantage of them.

According to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, current law is used "to target sex buyers who seek to exploit" and SB 357 would "take a major tool away from law enforcement" when it comes to combatting this issue. SB 357 would hinder law enforcement's ability to crack down on these perpetrators and limit their ability to help sex trafficking victims. While the author and sponsors claim that the same level of enforcement can be achieved through undercover work, those operations require extensive time, resource and personnel relative to the number of cases.

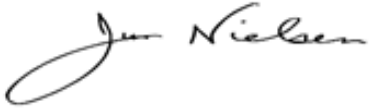
For these reasons, we strongly urge you to veto this bill.

Sincerely,

Scott Wilk
Senate Republican Leader
21st Senate District

Brian Jones
Caucus Chair,
38th Senate District

Brian Dahle
1st Senate District



Jim Nielsen
4th Senate District



Andreas Borgeas
8th Senate District



Shannon Grove
16th Senate District



Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
23rd Senate District



Melissa Melendez
28th Senate District



Patricia Bates
36th Senate District