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California State Senate

SENATOR
KELLY SEYARTO

THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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APPROPRIATIONS
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HOUSING
TRANSPORTATION

September 13, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Signing Request – Senate Bill 14

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you sign Senate Bill 14.

This bill, if implemented, designates human trafficking of a minor a serious felony and subject to the Three Strikes Law.

Currently, human trafficking is not defined as a serious felony, leaving the act of human trafficking inapplicable to the California Three Strikes law. Children have been exploited by traffickers who force these children to sell their bodies for financial gain. Not only are these victims forced into physical and sexual abuse, their traffickers withhold sleep, food, and basic necessities if the victim refuses to comply.

In many instances, traffickers will physically brand their victims with facial or body tattoos to signify their ownership over the victim against their will. Human trafficking victims often suffer long-term physical and psychological trauma, resulting in their struggle to reintegrate into society.

SB-14 makes the common-sense addition to the Three Strikes Law by including sex trafficking of minors in the list of crimes that are defined as a serious felony under California law. Providing protection for the victims of the heinous act that is human trafficking in the form of criminal reprisal, strengthens the safeguards for the millions of sex trafficking victims and serve as a deterrent for those aiming to perpetuate this crime.

I respectfully request that you sign SB-14. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (916) 651-4032.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Seyarto".

Kelly Seyarto
Senate District 32