



Contact: Amy Alley, Communications/Deputy Legislative Director (916-319-2016)

## Sample Support Letter for AB 90

January 13, 2011

California State Capitol, Room 6012  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 90 (Swanson) Human Trafficking: Minors – Support

Dear Assemblymember Swanson:

I am pleased to inform you of (your name, name of organization, or both) support for AB 90.

Federal law is clear that prosecutors do not have to prove force or coercion when a trafficking victim is under the age of 18; however, state law is vague regarding force or coercion. AB 90 aligns state human trafficking laws with federal law by allowing prosecutors to try child trafficking cases without proving coercion.

Specifically, AB 90 provides that where a minor victim is involved, the standard of proof shall be a showing that the defendant “caused, induced, encouraged, or persuaded the victim.” This is consistent with federal law and the fact that minors are unable to legally consent to sexual acts. This important change to the law recognizes the fact that many child victims of trafficking suffer from significant physical and mental health problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and trauma bonding, which creates the same kind of confinement as physical coercion.

AB 90 is an important step toward making our laws reflect the true character of human trafficking and its victims. I offer my strong support for AB 90.

Sincerely,

Name

cc: Members and Consultant of the Committee