



State of California

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Milton Marks Commission on California State
Government Organization and Economy

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February 9, 2022

The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula
1021 O Street, Suite 6240
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1820

Dear Assemblymember Arambula,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 1820, the measure you authored that would establish the Labor Trafficking Unit within the Department of Industrial Relations to receive, investigate, and prosecute complaints alleging labor trafficking and take steps to prevent it. The Unit would also coordinate with the Labor Enforcement Task Force, the Criminal Investigation Unit, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Fair Employment and Housing to combat labor trafficking.

In its 2020 report, *Labor Trafficking: Strategies to Help Victims and Bring Traffickers to Justice*, the Commission found that each year, hundreds of known labor trafficking survivors seek help in California. Yet cases that can bring their traffickers to justice remain rare. On average, there are less than 30 convictions for labor trafficking in California each year. The Department of Industrial Relations would be well positioned to serve at the forefront of combatting labor trafficking crimes, the Commission found, but it currently lacks the mandate to do so. To enhance efforts to bring labor traffickers to justice, the Commission recommended California mandate that the Department of Industrial Relations pursues labor trafficking alongside its other work to combat the underground economy.

AB 1820 would carry out this recommendation. For this reason, the Little Hoover Commission supports this bill. If I, the Commission, or our staff can provide any further assistance as this proposal moves through the legislative process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Chairman

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