



State of California

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Milton Marks Commission on California State
Government Organization and Economy

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February 23, 2022

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
1021 O Street, Suite 8210
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 2628

Dear Assemblymember Reyes,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 2628, the measure you authored that would expand the bases on which a child can be adjudged a dependent child of the juvenile court to explicitly include children who are victims of labor trafficking. Additionally, the bill would change the name of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program to the Human Trafficked Children Program and revise the program to include all children who are victims of human trafficking, including those who are the victims of labor trafficking.

In its 2020 report, *Labor Trafficking: Strategies to Uncover this Hidden Crime*, the Commission found that existing laws designed to protect child victims of human trafficking focus far more on sex trafficking than labor trafficking. While efforts to combat sex trafficking among children are vital and must continue, it is imperative that labor trafficking among children be combatted just as aggressively. To ensure child victims of all forms of trafficking are protected by California law, the Commission recommended lawmakers update existing laws that address human trafficking of commercially sexually exploited children to expand protections to children who are exploited for other forms of labor.

AB 2628 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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