



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 Blanca E. Rubio
1021 O Street, Suite 5140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 235

Dear Assemblymember Rubio,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 235, the measure you authored that would establish the Labor Trafficking Unit within the Civil Rights Department 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 Division of Labor Standards Enforcement within the Department of Industrial Relations 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. To enhance efforts to bring labor traffickers to justice, the Commission recommended California should empower state agencies to investigate labor trafficking crimes and incorporate labor trafficking into existing multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional efforts to combat the underground economy.

AB 235 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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Pedro Nava, Chairman

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