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STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

**Before the Milton Marks "Little Hoover" Commission
On California State Government Organization and Economy**

Public Hearing on Labor Trafficking

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Via Zoom

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Question 1: *Please describe your organization's authority to assist victims of labor trafficking. What barriers, if any, make it difficult to fulfill this role?*

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) is the state's emergency management and homeland security agency. As such, Cal OES oversees a variety of programs to assist the state in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a wide spectrum of threats and hazards to public safety, including human trafficking.

While none of these programs are dedicated solely to labor trafficking per se, existing human trafficking programs do contain labor trafficking components.

Cal OES's Homeland Security Directorate, Law Enforcement Branch, Grants Management Branch, and California Specialized Training Institute all play critical roles in a collaborative approach to addressing human trafficking in California.

The Homeland Security Directorate oversees the State Threat Assessment System (STAS), which includes the State Threat Assessment Center and five fusion centers across California. The STAS assists in the detection, prevention, investigation, and response to criminal and terrorist activity, and facilitates communications between state, local, federal, and private sector partners.

The Homeland Security Directorate, in conjunction with the Law Enforcement Branch, which employs regional staff to liaise with all local law enforcement agencies throughout the state, helps to inform priorities and funding decisions for certain grant programs and courses administered by Cal OES and the California Specialized Training Institute.

The California Specialized Training Institute provides training to state agencies and local government personnel to help build resiliency throughout the state. Among other courses, CSTI provides training on human trafficking. To take just one example, in October, CSTI administered a course called "Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery." This three-day course provided an intensive examination of human trafficking as a form of "modern-day slavery" to give professionals a "deep understanding of how the timeless exploitation of human beings has become one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world today."

Cal OES' Grants Management Branch is also active in the human trafficking space. Government Code § 8590.6 authorizes the Human Trafficking Victim Assistance (HV) Program, which Cal OES administers. The HV Program funds projects that provide comprehensive services to trafficked victims. This includes crisis intervention and emergency assistance, a 24-hour crisis line for victims of trafficking, counseling, emergency shelter, temporary housing, emergency food and clothing, transportation to important services such as medical or mental

health appointments, orientation to and accompaniment through the criminal justice process, assistance applying for benefits through the California Victim Compensation Board, holistic legal assistance services to assist victims of crime or to assist with expungement of criminal records resulting from the trafficking, and referrals to other local resources.

The Human Trafficking Advocacy (HA) Program is federally funded by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program, for which Cal OES is the State Administering Agency. VOCA authorizes federal financial assistance to states to support crime victim assistance programs that respond to the emotional and physical needs of victims of crime. Human trafficking, including labor trafficking, is a qualifying crime to utilize this program funding. Cal OES created the HA Program to support local victim witness assistance centers, as defined in the California Penal Code § 13835.2, in allocating specialized staff and services to meet the needs of victims of human trafficking, including labor trafficking.

It is important to recognize that Cal OES does not treat these initiatives as individuated or modular programs that operate in isolation. Instead, all of these programs are designed to intertwine and synergize to best serve victim-survivors of all threats and hazards, including labor trafficking.

Question 2: *What resources—both in terms of federal and state dollars—are available through your organization to assist labor trafficking survivors? Do any of the funding requirements specify or direct resources to certain types of human trafficking survivors (for example, does any of the funding specify that the dollars should be used to support both victims of sex and labor trafficking)?*

As described in the response to Question 1, Cal OES administers both state and federal funding to programs that assist human trafficking survivors, some of which assist victims of labor trafficking. Both the HV and HA programs require funded services to be provided to any human trafficking survivor, whether they were trafficked for labor or commercial sex.

Cal OES administers \$10 million from the General Fund annually through the HV Program, which funds 21 victim service community-based organizations (CBOs) statewide dedicated to serving victims of both sex and labor trafficking.

Cal OES administers approximately \$1.6 million in federal VOCA funds through the HA Program, which supports local Victim Witness Assistance Programs in 11 counties across the state. HA Program recipients dedicate a specialized advocate within their Victim Witness Assistance Program to identify and provide comprehensive services to survivors of human trafficking.

Cal OES has seen a significant decrease in VOCA funds over the past two years, potentially due to variances in federal prosecution fines and penalties which fund the grant program. The following table illustrates the VOCA allocations to California over the past five years.

VOCA Federal Fiscal Year	VOCA Award Amount to California
2016	\$264,297,285
2017	\$218,943,281
2018	\$396,642,274
2019	\$266,680,824
2020	\$195,405,619

Aside from HV and HA, which are solely dedicated to assisting victims of human trafficking, Cal OES administers more than \$300 million in state and federal funds to serve all victims of crime, which may include labor trafficking survivors, across the Victim Services Branch.

In particular, data collected across the Cal OES victim services grant programs shows that labor trafficking victims access services through the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, Domestic Violence Assistance Program, Innovative Response to Marginalized Victims Program, Legal Assistance Program, Rape Crisis Program, County Victim Service Program, and Transitional Housing Program.

Through CSTI, Cal OES provides training to first responders and public safety agencies statewide to identify and assist victims of human trafficking, including labor trafficking. As noted above, CSTI recently piloted a suite of trafficking-related classes. These classes include a one-day basic awareness overview, an advanced three-day course on identifying and investigating human trafficking and responding to the needs of victims, and a two-day course focusing on the growing nexus between human trafficking funding and support of transnational criminal organizations and foreign terrorist organizations.

Question 3: *To date, how many labor trafficking survivors have received assistance through your organization? It would be helpful to know how many victims of labor trafficking were served by each service provider and some of the general demographics of human trafficking victims served by provider.*

The following table reflects the number of labor, and labor and sex trafficking victims served by HV Program. See the *HV Program Statistics* attachment for a breakdown of labor trafficking victims served and demographic information by service provider.

Program & Year*	Number of Fund Recipients	Labor Trafficking	Labor & Sex Trafficking	Total
HV15 (Total 39 months)	11	1251	419	1670
HV16 (Total 24 months)	10	514	431	945
HV18 (First 6 months)	21	395	174	569

*No new projects were funded in FY 17-18.

Note: Data may contain duplicate counts of victims due to the possibility of a victim receiving services multiple times from one service provider, or from multiple service providers.

The following table reflects the number of labor trafficking victims served across all Cal OES Victim Services grantees receiving VOCA funds:

VOCA Federal Fiscal Year	Total Labor Trafficking Victims Served
2016	759
2017	1233
2018	1440
2019	1775

Note: Demographic information is not available for this data as federal reporting does not link demographic information with the type of crime victim served. As referenced above, data may represent a duplicated count of victims.

Question 4: *What more is needed to strengthen California's response to labor trafficking? Examples may include a centralized database for collecting and analyzing human trafficking data or increased awareness of and protocols for identifying and reporting suspected labor trafficking.*

Through their progress reports and on collaborative partnership calls, HV and HA program recipients and their partner agencies have indicated that they need more training and technical assistance for specialized staff to serve as “first identifiers.” This includes health practitioners, labor inspectors, code enforcement officers, and other professionals likely to interact with labor trafficking survivors, who may be able to connect victims to the appropriate assistance. The courses referred to in Question 2 help to train and promote the importance of first identifiers.