

15 FEB -6 AM 8:47
OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE ACT 140 (S. 140) WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE INDIVIDUALS WHO COMMIT SEX TRAFFICKING CRIMES AND REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO COLLECT AND MONITOR DATA ON THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a serious problem in the City of Oakland and a priority identified by the Oakland City Council for many years; and

WHEREAS, sexual exploitation of children is of particular concern as there are an estimated one hundred children trapped, coerced, and trafficked on the streets of Oakland every single day; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland City Council approved legislation in June 2013 to create a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children ("CSEC") Task Force to work towards abolishing sexual exploitation through training, prevention, awareness, and policy development; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dianne Feinstein has drafted S. 140 to strengthen law enforcement efforts to investigate and prosecute all who commit sex trafficking crimes, particularly buyers of sex acts from trafficking victims; and

WHEREAS, victims of sexual exploitation are often required to testify in court against their "pimps" or "sellers," often causing great re-traumatization of the physical and psychological pain that they have endured, and this such requirement to testify is sought to be reduced or eliminated for victims who are minors through the passage of S. 140; and

WHEREAS, under S. 140, the Bureau of Justice Statistics will be required to prepare an annual report on sex trafficking offenses that are prosecuted in the State court system; and

WHEREAS, superior data collection is needed to track sexual exploitation in order to evaluate the number of offenses, demographics of the offenders, locations of offenses so that law enforcement, advocates, and lawmakers can determine how to prevent this crime from ever occurring; and

WHEREAS, under S. 140, victims of human trafficking will have enhanced rights, such as being informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement; and

WHEREAS, wiretapping can be an appropriate tool for law enforcement to gather evidence on human trafficking and thus make arrests of exploiters, of which S. 140 will enhance the capacity for wiretapping to occur during human trafficking investigations by local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, targeting the demand for sexual trafficking has been identified by experts and numerous studies as a means to reduce exploitation; and

WHEREAS, increased prosecution upon buyers of commercial sex will provide multiple benefits, including deterring potential buyers of sex because they are aware of the hefty penalties they could face, if charged; and

WHEREAS, the criminal justice system is responsible to impose appropriate punitive measures in order to protect criminal behavior from harming the citizens of this country, of which; and

WHEREAS, S. 140 is endorsed by Fraternal Order of Police, Shared Hope International, ECPAT-USA, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), Human Rights Project for Girls, Survivors for Solutions, Sanctuary For Families, World Hope International, Prostitution Research & Education, Breaking Free, Equality Now, National Organization for Victim Assistance, Seraphim Global, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, City of Oakland (CA), Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition, and Casa Cornelia Law Center, as well as two Oakland based non-profit agencies serving sexually exploited youth: WestCoast Children's Clinic and MISSEY (Motivating, Inspiring, and Supporting Sexually Exploited Youth); now, therefore be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: in alignment with Oakland's quest to abolish sexual exploitation of children and all human trafficking, the City of Oakland fully endorses S. 140, the Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2015 and urges its passage by the Congress of the United States of America.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF, AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -
ABSENT -
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California