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City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. 85431 - C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED FEDERAL "COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015", 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 proposed federal legislation, the "Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2015", 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 S. 140 will reduce or eliminate this requirement for victims who are minors; and

**WHEREAS**, S.140 will require the Bureau of Justice Statistics 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**, S.140 will provide victims of human trafficking enhanced rights, such as advance notice 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 enable law enforcement to arrest exploiters, and S.140 will enhance local law enforcement wiretapping authority for human trafficking investigations ; 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: West Coast Children's Clinic and MISSEY (Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting and Serving Sexually Exploited Youth); now, therefore be it

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

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

**MAR 03 2015**

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

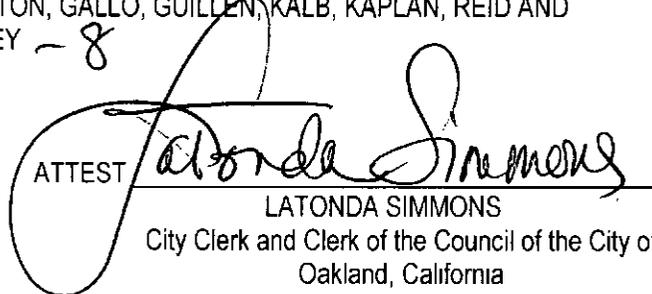
AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL-WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLEN, KALB, KAPLAN, REID AND PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY - 8

NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

ATTEST

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