

**The bill strengthens law enforcement efforts to investigate and prosecute all who commit sex trafficking crimes, particularly buyers of sex acts from trafficking victims**

*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, MISSSEY, 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, Casa Cornelia Law Center, and WestCoast Children's Clinic*

### The Problem

- As Luis CdeBaca, the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, noted, "no girl or woman would be a victim of sex trafficking if there were no profits to be made from their exploitation."
- Buyers of commercial sex create a market for human trafficking, but are rarely prosecuted in the federal or state criminal justice system.

### Summary of the Bill

- Clarifies that a buyer of a commercial sex act can be prosecuted under the commercial sex trafficking statute.
- Makes a seller or buyer of sex strictly liable for his action if the victim is under the age of 18, thereby sparing child victims from having to testify and be re-traumatized.
- Establishes a minimum period of 5 years of supervised release for a person who conspires to violate the commercial sex trafficking statute, thereby making conspirators subject to the same term of supervised release as those convicted of attempting to violate the statute or violating the statute.
- Directs the Bureau of Justice Statistics to prepare an annual report on sex trafficking offenses prosecuted in the State court system.
- Increases training on effective methods for investigating and prosecuting the buyers of sex acts, on seeking and ordering restitution for victims of sex trafficking, and on ensuring victims receive health services.
- Expands federal and state wiretapping authorities to cover all human trafficking offenses.
- Strengthens crime victims' rights by providing victims with the right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement; and clarifying that, when a victim is denied his or her rights in the lower court and appeals that denial, the appellate court shall apply ordinary standards of appellate review, not the more demanding "clear and indisputable error" standard.