

Los Angeles Office:

4300 Long Beach Blvd., #750
Long Beach, CA 90807

Corporate Office:

801 E. Chapman #203
Fullerton, CA 92831
714.680.9000 | f. 714.680.8207

Programs and Services

Adoption Agency
Family Preservation
Program
Family Reunification
Program
Foster Family Agency
Internship Programs
Residential Treatment
Unaccompanied
Children's Program
Unaccompanied
Refuge Minor Program
Volunteer Program
Wraparound Program

Speciality Programs

Pregnant/Parenting
Teen Support
Substance Abuse
Sexual Exploitation
Recovery

Locations

Escondido
Fullerton
Long Beach
Compton
Moreno Valley
Norwalk
Pomona
Rancho Dominguez
San Bernardino
Victorville

Mailing Address

PO Box 9
Fullerton, CA 92836-0009

Chief Executive Officer

Joyce R. Capelle

Chartered in 1966

A 501(c)3 nonprofit

Tax ID 95-2492427

ACCREDITED



COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION
OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES
AND CHILDREN, INC.



A member of the
Crittenton family of agencies

**Believe.
Achieve.
Empower.**

www.crittentonsocal.org

The Honorable Robert Huff
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, California 95814



February 14, 2014

RE: SUPPORT SB 982

Via Facsimile: (916) 651-4929

Dear Senator Huff:

Crittenton Services for Children and Families is proud to express support for your Senate Bill 982, which will increase penalties for the Johns who prey on vulnerable children to exploit them for sex. Indeed, California's designation as a "destination" for minor sex trafficking is directly attributable to the consistent demand from adult men in our communities. Your bill will be an invaluable tool to deterring the predators who exploit our kids.

Crittenton is a non-profit child welfare agency offering specialized services to domestic minor victims of sex trafficking. With a residential treatment center in your Senate district, we have been providing intensive interventions that focus on addressing the trauma that these young victims are struggling with. In fact, many of our clients have suffered from sexual abuse prior to being exploited, and the average age of girl being treated is 16. From a provider perspective, it is critical that the community look collaboratively at intervention and prevention tactics, but that we also tackle the demand in a way that ends the victimization of children.

Unfortunately, studies have shown that the knowledge of a woman or child being a victim of trafficking is not always enough of a deterrent to decrease the demand for sex. Instead, purchasers have indicated that the only sufficient ways to discourage men from exploiting girls is increased penalties, criminal sanctions or registration as a sex offender. We are thankful that SB 982 draws on deterrents that are likely to be successful in preventing would-be offenders from engaging in what is fundamentally the habitual sexual abuse and rape of vulnerable youth.

Finally, it is worth noting that the consequences of exploitation deeply affect victims and continue to ripple through our communities for many years even with effective intervention treatments. Complex trauma that develops from abuse often result in chemical dependency, mental illness, unwanted pregnancy, disease and early death. From a victim perspective, we must consider the message that we send these youth when we fail to hold their abusers responsible, and fail to curb the demand that facilitates this heinous crime. Your legislation can help victims like the youth we serve heal by ensuring that their abusers will not continue to terrorize our communities and other children.

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Crittenton thanks you for your leadership in introducing this bill, and your continued commitment to ending human trafficking. We look forward to watching the bill's progress and assisting you wherever possible in ensuring SB 982's success. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Joyce Capelle at (714) 680-9061 or Stefanie Benvenuto at (714) 336-6536 or sbenvenuto@crittentonsocal.org.

Sincerely,


Joyce Capelle

President & CEO



Stefanie Benvenuto

Director, Public Policy & Advocacy

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Empower.

www.crittentonsocal.org