



April 24, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 865 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly-member Gonzalez,

The National Survivor Network (NSN) and Resilient Voices (RV) are pleased to support AB 865 (Reyes).

Both the NSN and are survivor-led leadership programs under CAST LA. We believe that human trafficking is a human rights violation that requires specific training and expertise to address. This strong human-rights based approach must be comprehensive and beneficial for all survivors of trafficking; through State Based and Federal Advocacy we push for the needs of all survivors of trafficking.

Children who have interacted with the foster care system are at high risk of becoming victims of trafficking. The National Foster Youth Institute estimates that 60 percent of child sex trafficking victims have a prior history in the foster care system. Although this population is at high risk, caregivers are not given access to proper training on exploitation and means of supporting foster youth who are survivors of trafficking. Current law provides a critical foundation for foster youth rights and caregiver responsibilities. However, there is a lack of attention surrounding risk factors and trauma triggers for children who are at risk or who have experienced trafficking.

AB 865 would expand resources for family training to include best practices for foster parents to care for children who are at risk or have experienced trafficking. The bill would provide resource families with the two types of support: contact information for crisis hotlines and law enforcement entities, and mandatory training following approval that goes over best practices providing care to child victims of trafficking. Several of have similar experiences and recognize the need to expand training and support for resources to families. It is imperative that foster parents are provided with training and information to ensure they are properly prepared to care for these children.

Sincerely,

Nat Paul
Policy Chair, National Survivor Network

CC: Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Office of Assembly-member Eloise Gomez Reyes