



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

June 24, 2016

Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer
California Assembly Public Safety Chair
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0059

SUPPORT: SB 1322 – No Such Thing as a Child Sex Worker

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer,

There is no such thing as a child sex worker.

Children cannot legally consent to drink or smoke or work, and sex work should be a part of that list. We must protect our children from the predators that abuse them and a system that re-victimizes them.

[SB 1322 \(Mitchell\)](#) precludes victims of commercial sexual exploitation, a form of child abuse, from being arrested and charged with prostitution and related loitering. Youth ALIVE! supports this important bill that recognizes the harmful effects of arresting these victims of child sex trafficking including further traumatization, disconnection from the community and school, and vulnerability to violence. California is considering important legislation that will stop authorities from treating victims of child sex trafficking like criminals.

Youth ALIVE! is a violence prevention and intervention organization that helps young people become leaders and advocates for the change they would like to see in their communities through our Teens on Target Program, mentors and supports healing for young people who have been violently injured through our Caught in the Crossfire program, and works with families grieving in the wake of a homicide through our Khadafy Washington Project. We believe in protecting all children and SB 1322 takes a step in protecting some of California's most vulnerable children.

Please support SB 1322, protect children, and remind all of California that there is no such thing as a child sex worker.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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