



What Are People Saying About SB-14 – California’s Anti-Child Sex Trafficking Bill

This legislative session, Senator Shannon Grove (R – Bakersfield) authored [Senate Bill 14](#) – reclassifying child sex trafficking as a serious felony in California. With immense bi-partisan support, the bill was unanimously passed out of the California State Senate on a 40-0 vote. From there it headed to the Assembly Public Safety Committee where, under the leadership of Committee Chair Reggie Jones-Sawyer, the bill was voted down on party lines. Only after a bi-partisan outcry from Democrats and Republicans alike in response to the Committee’s failure to advance such a common-sense anti-crime bill, and a rebuke from Governor Newsom, did Assembly Democrats force the Committee to re-consider the bill. With the increased media attention and public scrutiny, all but two members of the Committee reversed their votes to keep this important bill alive in the legislative process. Assemblymembers Mia Bonta (D-Oakland) and Isaac Bryan (D – Los Angeles) continued to abstain.

Senator Shannon Grove

Representing the 12th Senate District

Senator Grove’s Bill to Fight Human Trafficking is voted down in the Assembly Public Safety Committee

<https://sr12.senate.ca.gov/content/senator-groves-bill-fight-human-trafficking-voted-down-assembly-public-safety-committee>

“After passing the Senate with a unanimous, bipartisan vote, I had hoped Democrats on the Assembly Public Safety Committee, led by Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer, would agree to make sex trafficking of a minor a serious felony. I am profoundly disappointed that committee Democrats couldn’t bring themselves to support the bill, with their stubborn and misguided objection to any penalty increase regardless of how heinous the crime.”

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

California Democrats deserve to be embarrassed for bungling sex trafficking bill

<https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/article277288433.html>

“A bipartisan outcry led by Gov. Gavin Newsom caused the bill to come back before the committee whose members promptly voted for it - save for Mia Bonta and Isaac Bryan, who abstained...Efforts to toughen sentences legitimately face questions given California’s prison overcrowding and budget constraints. But as Republican Heath Flora of Ripon told the Assembly on Thursday morning, the choice on SB 14 was straightforward: ‘Pick pedophiles or children.’”

POLITICO

Dems get caught in traffic

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/california-playbook/2023/07/14/dems-gets-caught-in-traffic-00106324>

*“The bill passed the Senate on a 40-0 vote after Grove made a series of amendments to appease progressives. Exhibit A: Sen. **Scott Wiener**, one of the most liberal senators, voted for it and said Democrats “worked with Senator Grove to focus the bill on children.” He added, “It was a reasonable bill.”*



California Democrats resisted a child trafficking bill — until they couldn't

<https://calmatters.org/justice/2023/07/child-trafficking-bill-california-legislature/>

"Lawmakers from both parties had made numerous previous attempts to [reclassify human trafficking of a minor](#) for purposes of a commercial sex act as a "serious felony," which would be treated as a strike under California's Three Strikes law...In 2007, twice in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2017 and three times in 2021, legislators tried and failed to reclassify child sex trafficking...'On Tuesday, I made a bad decision,' Assemblymember Liz Ortega, a Hayward Democrat, wrote Thursday on Twitter. 'Voting against legislation targeting really bad people who traffic children was wrong. I regret doing that and I am going to help get this important legislation passed into law.'"

Los Angeles Times

California Democrats reverse course after killing bill to stiffen penalties for child sex trafficking

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-07-13/california-democrats-reverse-course-after-killing-bill-to-stiffen-penalties-for-child-sex-trafficking>

"The controversial panel of mostly Democratic members regularly strikes down proposals that they think could usher in a new wave of mass incarceration, instead preferring legislation that promotes rehabilitation and alternatives to prison and using existing options to hold criminals accountable. Earlier this year, Jones-Sawyer sparked outrage when he [shelved several bills to strengthen punishment of repeat fentanyl dealers](#), a decision he later walked back."

San Francisco Chronicle

California Democrats are taking absurd positions on crime and housing — making Republicans somehow relevant again

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/article/democrats-california-crime-human-trafficking-18195843.php>

"The notion that it isn't a serious crime to traffic children for sex or labor would be so absurd as to be laughable if it weren't for the gravity of the situation. [The U.S. Department of State](#) and the [American Civil Liberties Union](#) consider human trafficking to be a form of modern-day slavery. The thousands of Californians forced into various forms of human trafficking every year are disproportionately young, female and Black, according to [a 2020 report from the Little Hoover Commission](#), an independent state watchdog."