SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair 2017 - 2018 Regular

Bill No: SB 1104 Hearing Date: April 4, 2018

Author: Roth

Version: March 19, 2018

Urgency: No **Fiscal**: Yes

Consultant: Lynn Lorber

Subject: Pupil safety: human trafficking prevention resources

SUMMARY

This bill requires school districts to work with the schools in the district serving students in any of grades 6-12 to identify methods of informing parents of human trafficking prevention resources, and requires schools to implement those methods by an unspecified date.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Requires each school district to ensure that all students in grades 7 through 12 receive comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education from instructors trained in the appropriate courses. Existing law requires each student to receive this instruction at least once in junior high or middle school and at least once in high school. Existing law requires this instruction to include, among other things, information about sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and human trafficking. Existing law requires information on human trafficking to include information on the prevalence, nature, and strategies to reduce the risk of human trafficking, techniques to set healthy boundaries, and how to safely seek assistance. (Education Code § 51934)
- 2) Requires comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education to be provided by instructors trained in the appropriate courses. Existing law defines "instructors trained in the appropriate courses" as instructors with knowledge of the most recent medically accurate research on human sexuality, healthy relationships, pregnancy, and HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. (EC § 51931 and § 51934)
- 3) Authorizes the California Department of Education to post on its website information about the education described in this section, resources on abuse, including sexual abuse, and human trafficking prevention for professional learning purposes, and relevant materials for parents, guardians, and other caretakers of students. (EC § 51950)

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ANALYSIS

This bill:

1) Requires school districts to work with the schools of the school district that serve students in any of grades 6-12 to identify the most appropriate methods of informing parents and guardians of human trafficking prevention resources.

2) Requires schools to implement the identified methods by an unspecified date.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Need for the bill. According to the author, "The state currently requires teachers and students to be provided information related to trafficking. Considering that perpetrators frequently groom their victims by instilling in them a distrust of authority figures, or by isolating them from their families, students often try to hide their victimization from teachers and law enforcement. While children spend a significant amount of time at school, there are certain behaviors that parents are more adept at identifying like sudden changes in behavior, depression, unexplained cash, fake identification, or signs of abuse. Considering that California leads the nation with the most reported cases of human trafficking, it is critical that the state require information and resources to be provided to parents and quardians."
- Pluman trafficking and schools. In 2015, the U.S. Department of Education released a report titled "Human Trafficking in America's Schools," which noted that victims experience severe physical, emotional, and psychological trauma, which may manifest as problematic behaviors, such as aggression and truancy. Trafficking is also associated with learning disabilities. The report further argued that "everyone who is part of the school community—administrators, teachers, bus drivers, maintenance personnel, food service staff, resource officers, and other school community members—has the potential to be an advocate for child victims of human trafficking." The report noted that in order to maintain healthy school environments, school personnel should be knowledgeable about the signs and symptoms of trafficking, ways to support disclosure, and the steps to take when there is a suspicion of trafficking.

https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/sites/default/files/HumanTraffickinginAmericasSchools.pdf

A 2015 study conducted by the University of San Diego and Point Loma Nazarene University of gang-related sex trafficking further suggests that trafficking is a real risk for students in some schools. This research was the first to use schools as a source of data for sex trafficking research. The study, which included focus groups at 20 area high schools, reported that between 8,830 and 11,773 victims—mostly girls—were trafficked in San Diego County each year. All of the 20 San Diego high schools confirmed that recruitment of their students for sex trafficking was occurring. School personnel reported a total of 69 distinctly named gangs, of which 31 were seen as involved in sex trafficking. In total, the high school staff in 20 high schools across the county identified 417 reported victims along with an additional 60 suspected victims in the past 5 years

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(averaging approximately 95 victims at least suspected per year). The study's authors recommended that San Diego County increase resources for the training of school personnel in identifiers and protocols, as well as awareness training for students from middle and high schools.

https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249857.pdf

3) **Existing resources.** The California Department of Education's website includes the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children site, which provides information about available curriculum and links to outside entities that work to end human trafficking. This website does not clearly include information targeted to parents. https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/vp/commsexexploitationchild.asp

The California Department of Social Services administers the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Program. Among other things, this program provides information on specialized service providers by county; some counties provide parent education on commercial sexual exploitation-related issues such as internet safety and parental awareness.

http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Child-Welfare-Protection/CSEC

- 4) **Unspecified date.** This bill requires schools to implement identified methods of informing parents of human trafficking prevention resources by an unspecified date. **Staff recommends an amendment** to require schools to implement their identified method of informing parents by January 1, 2020.
- 5) **Related legislation.** AB 1861 (Rodriguez) requires school districts to educate students on the use of social media and mobile device applications in human trafficking. AB 1861 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SUPPORT

California Federation of Women's Clubs (sponsor)
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
California Catholic Conference
California Federation of Teachers
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
Children's Law Center of California
Operation SafeHouse
Riverside Sheriffs' Association

OPPOSITION

None received