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FLOOR LETTER

SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1822 (SWANSON)

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA SENATE

Assembly Bill 1822 (Swanson) is sponsored by the California Police Chiefs Association and is supported by The Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, California Association of Code Enforcement Officers, California District Attorneys Association, California Fraternal Order of Police, California Narcotic Officers Association, California Peace Officers' Association, California State Sheriffs Association, International Faith Based Coalition/Forces United; Long Beach Police Officers Association, Los Angeles County District Attorney, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association, Los Angeles County Probation Union, Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association, Los Angeles Police Protective League, Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force, Orange County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association, Riverside Sheriffs Association, and the Santa Ana Police Officers Association.

Assembly Bill 1822 provides for an important tool for law enforcement in combating Human Trafficking. This bill adds a representative from the California Police Chiefs Association and a representative from the California State Sheriffs Association to the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC). The addition of these two representatives does not alter the balance of the board but it will provide for important law enforcement input when the board makes decisions about the issuance of statewide massage certificates.

The unhappy reality is that the massage profession – a legitimate part of the healing arts – has been historically invaded by prostitution and Human Trafficking criminal enterprises. No other healing arts profession has experienced this type of attempted takeover by prostitution and Human Trafficking enterprises. Those enterprises have been seeking to exploit the inexperience and early growing pains mistakes of the CAMTC in hope of using the state certification process to evade law enforcement scrutiny. The addition of two law enforcement representatives – experienced in recognizing Human Trafficking schemes – will be a major step in preventing that invasion taking advantage of the CAMTC.

Assembly Bill 1822 will create an important safeguard against efforts of Human Traffickers to subvert current law. Your "yes" vote on this measure is respectfully requested.