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****PRESS RELEASE****

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**CITY ATTORNEY SPONSORED HUMAN TRAFFICKING
LEGISLATION PASSES CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY**

LOS ANGELES – City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich today lauded the California State Assembly for passing legislation sponsored by his Office (AB 2212) that will provide a new civil remedy to shut down human trafficking operations and direct recovered penalties to victim services and prevention programs. The legislation is co-sponsored by San Diego City Attorney Jan Goldsmith and supported by the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking.

“Human trafficking is a terrible crime that goes against basic human rights and everything our country stands for,” said City Attorney Trutanich. “The legislation sponsored by my Office will provide prosecutors with an essential tool to immediately shut down these heinous operations and provide needed resources to victims. I thank the California Assembly for joining us in this fight and now urge the State Senate to quickly approve this needed legislation.”

AB 2212, authored by Assemblymember Marty Block (D-San Diego), adds human trafficking to the list of specified illegal activities under nuisance abatement law. Buildings found to facilitate human trafficking will be declared a nuisance, forced to shut down and assessed a fee and civil fine up to \$25,000. One-half of the penalties recovered will go to community-based organizations that provide human trafficking victim services and prevention programs.

“Making it easier for district attorneys and city prosecutors to hold human traffickers and their cohorts responsible is a key step in combating this heinous crime in our communities,” said Assemblymember Marty Block, author of AB 2212.

The legislation passed the California Assembly on a bi-partisan vote of 71-0 and will now move the California State Senate.

According to CIA estimates, as many as 15,000 to 17,500 men, women and children are trafficked into the United States every year. Los Angeles is one of the top three points of entry into this country for victims of slavery and trafficking. The diverse communities of Los Angeles make it easier to hide and move victims from place to place, and very difficult for law enforcement to locate potential survivors.

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