



March 17, 2026

The Honorable Jesse Arreguín, Chair
Senate Public Safety Committee
1021 O Street, Room 2200
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2582 (Schultz and Krell) Crimes: prostitution - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Arreguín and Members of the Senate Public Safety Committee,

The California Catholic Conference **SUPPORTS AB 2582 (Schultz and Krell)** as introduced. This bill connects individuals charged with prostitution with diversion and assistance after their first and second offenses rather than criminal penalties.

California has one of the highest rates of human trafficking in the country, and disproportionately impacts women of color – Black, Indigenous, and Latina women – and the most vulnerable with a history of family breakdown, sexual abuse, homelessness, poverty, substance use disorders, undocumented status, and involvement with the foster care or juvenile justice systems.

Similarly, nearly 9 in 10 individuals in adult prostitution want to leave the life, with its universal experiences of violence, brain injury, mortality and suffering. No one should have to trade the most personal and intimate of acts that is sex for basic human rights like food, water, shelter, or clothing. The Vatican has called the buying of sexual services “a serious offence against human dignity and human integrity and an affront to human sexuality,” especially because of its impact on women and girls.

Providing diversion to help women leave prostitution will help break this cycle for the most vulnerable in our society. Exploited children often remain trapped in prostitution as adults and the state has a responsibility to safeguard them.

The California Catholic community is 12 million strong, and we are the largest private nonprofit provider of healthcare, education, and social services for the common good in our state. The Conference supports bills that build a just and sustainable society and protect the vulnerable from the scourge of human trafficking.

For these reasons, as the official public policy voice for the Catholic Church of California, we request that you vote **“AYE” on AB 2582**. Should you have any questions regarding our position please contact Molly Sheahan, Associate Director for Healthy Families at 916.313.4019 or msheahan@cacatholic.org.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen Domingo
Executive Director

KBD:MS:mip

