

LAGUNA BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION NO. 22-01
RECOGNITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION
MONTH JANUARY 2022

WHEREAS, the California Child Welfare Council reports that the fast-growing criminal industry of commercial sexual exploitation affects 100,000-300,000 children a year nationally, with 11-14 being the most common ages of victims coerced into the industry, but human trafficking specialists in Orange County have estimated ages even younger;

WHEREAS, there is a lack of available data on the impact of commercial sexual exploitation within our community, but the District, and others, strongly believe even one case of youth victimization is too many;

WHEREAS, the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a form of human trafficking and child abuse, where the child is treated as a commercial sexual object, involving the exchange of sexual activity for money or something of value;

WHEREAS, exploited children endure complex trauma that negatively affects psychosocial development, physical health, and academic engagement, which may manifest in chronic absenteeism, low academic performance, and increase the probability of school dropout;

WHEREAS, particularly vulnerable students disproportionately represented as a sexually exploited youth are often homeless, in the foster youth system, African American, LGBTQ, unaccompanied minors, undocumented, possess special education needs, and/or have had contact with the juvenile justice system;

WHEREAS, California Senate Bill 855: Human Services was signed on June 20, 2014 and outlined training and prevention and intervention services to be provided to caseworkers and vulnerable youth;

WHEREAS, California Senate Bill 794: Child Welfare Services was signed by the Governor on October 1, 2015 and requires county child welfare agencies and probation departments to implement policies and procedures to identify, document, and determine appropriate services for children and youth who are receiving child welfare services pursuant to federal law and are, or are at risk of becoming, victims of commercial sexual exploitation;

WHEREAS, California Senate Bill 1322: Commercial Sex Acts: Minors was signed September 26, 2016 and removes the criminal penalty for youth engaged in the commercial sex trade as a victim of CSEC;

WHEREAS, California Assembly Bill 1227: Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Training Act was signed October 7, 2017 and requires school districts to ensure that all pupils in grades 7 to 12 receive comprehensive sexual health education. Under the act, this instruction

includes, among other things, information about sexual harassment, sexual assault, adolescent relationship abuse, intimate partner violence, and sex trafficking;

WHEREAS, on December 30, 2021, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Unified States, issued *A Proclamation on National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, 2022*, which stated in part, “Human trafficking — whether in the form of forced labor, sex trafficking, or other offenses — is an abhorrent abuse of power and a profoundly immoral crime that strikes at the safety, health, and dignity of millions of people worldwide. During National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we reaffirm our commitment to protect and empower survivors of all forms of human trafficking, to prosecute traffickers, and to bring an end to human trafficking in the United States and around the world;”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of the Laguna Beach Unified School District stands in solidarity with staff, partners, community members, and all local agencies working to eliminate and address the CSEC crisis that exists;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Laguna Beach Unified School District will infuse CSEC awareness, prevention, and intervention into all applicable District units, policies, and trainings, such as, but not limited to, the biannual mandatory child abuse training, and will continue as capacity is built out.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Laguna Beach Unified School Board of Education on this 13th day of January 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: 5 Kelly, Normandin, Osborne, Perry, Vickers

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

I, Kelly Osborne, Clerk of the Governing Board of the Laguna Beach Unified School District of Orange County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof, at the regular meeting time and by the vote stated above.



Kelly Osborne
Clerk of the Board
Laguna Beach Unified School District