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**Stop AB 379: Dangerous Bill Threatening Rights and Safety to be Heard in Assembly
Public Safety Committee**

Sacramento, CA – California Sex Workers Advocates are calling on the California Assembly Public Safety Committee to **reject Assembly Bill 379 (AB 379)**, a misguided piece of legislation slated for a hearing on Tuesday, **April 29th, at 8:30 AM in Room 126 of the State Capitol Building**. Advocates will use a recently released white paper on diversion programs to expose the deceptively framed bill as protecting victims of human trafficking, is in reality **a harmful rehash of the failed 'loitering with intent' approach that will endanger sex workers, violate constitutional rights, and waste taxpayer dollars.**

AB 379 should be vehemently opposed for numerous critical reasons:

- **AB 379 is likely unconstitutional** as it creates a new offense of "loitering in any public place with the intent to purchase commercial sex," which is almost certainly a violation of the Fourth Amendment protecting against unreasonable searches and seizures.
- The bill uses **vague and subjective language** that will likely lead to **discriminatory enforcement** by law enforcement, targeting Black and Brown individuals. This echoes concerns about the repealed "walking while trans law".
- Additional **vague and subjective language** 'intent to purchase commercial sex' could target strip club clients for arrest or any other legal type of sex work.
- AB 379 **sets up clear conflicts of interest** in the use of state funds by channeling money to organizations that already operate prostitution diversion programs and have close ties to law enforcement. This creates a "slush fund" using a "ho tax".
- **Diversion programs** for those charged, which **violates defendants' rights to judicial review**. Furthermore, there is **no provision for oversight** of these programs, allowing nonprofits to create curricula without accountability.
- There is [no data showing that prostitution diversion programs are beneficial](#) for those involved, public safety, or sex workers.
- Evidence suggests that **criminalization can reduce access to health services and isolate sex workers**, while more liberal legal frameworks like decriminalization have shown positive outcomes

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