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April 1, 2016

Assemblyman Roger Hernández
Chair, Assembly Labor and Employment Committee
1020 N Street, Room 155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2539 (Levine) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Hernández:

The California Labor Federation supports AB 2539 (Levine), which provides that professional models are employees and receive all worker protections under state and federal law. The bill further requires the adoption of health and safety standards for models.

Professional fashion models face demands by the industry to maintain a particular physical appearance and weight, similar to the demands placed on professional athletes like wrestlers, jockeys, and boxers. Pressures to maintain a specific appearance can have adverse impacts on models' physical health.

This bill seeks to ensure that models have effective health and safety protections under the law by requiring that all modeling agencies be licensed with the Labor Commissioner and clarifying that models are statutory employees. These provisions will help ensure that models are covered and protected by existing and proposed health and safety standards.

The bill also requires the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (OSHSB) to adopt an occupational safety and health standard for models. The standards shall address issues including, but not limited to, workplace safety, eating disorders, and sexual exploitation. Employers, workers, and other experts will come together to discuss the specifics of these standards and draft a clear regulatory framework that reflects the best available medical evidence and will, once in effect, keep workers safe from the ravages of sexual exploitation, eating disorders, and other health concerns that may arise during the OSHSB advisory committee process.

We urge you to vote "YES" on AB 2539 (Levine) when it comes before you in the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee on Wednesday, April 6, 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Flocks", is written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sara Flocks
Public Policy Coordinator

SF: sm
OPEIU 29 AFL CIO

Cc: Committee Members
Assemblyman Marc Levine