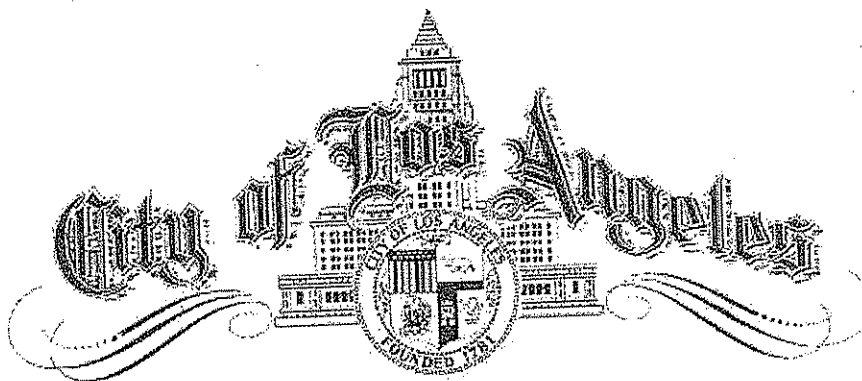


City Hall East
200 N. Main Street
Room 800
Los Angeles, CA 90012



(213) 978-8100 Tel
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C.Trutanich@lacity.org
www.lacity.org/tty

CARMEN A. TRUTANICH
City Attorney

September 23, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 1319 – Signature Requested

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I write to request your signature on AB 1319, which protects consumers especially children, from becoming victims of advance-fee talent scams. The Screen Actors Guild and Better Business Bureau have joined my office in co-sponsoring this important consumer protection bill.

According to the Better Business Bureau, since 2006 there have been approximately 1,000 complaints and 143,000 consumer inquiries about talent services in Southern California alone. The losses have been in the millions. Plus, no dollar figure can measure the emotional harm to children when they discover their "talent scout" was a fraud.

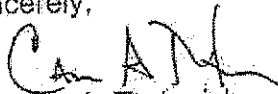
AB 1319 offers a comprehensive approach to this problem by setting reasonable consumer protection guidelines, by alerting the public to be wary of dishonest business practices and by providing law enforcement with the necessary tools for investigation and prosecution.

Importantly, AB 1319 benefits legitimate businesses that offer talent services. That is why it has unprecedented support from both industry and law enforcement, including the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), The Walt Disney Co., the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA), the California District Attorney's Association (CDAA) and various county and city prosecuting agencies.



I respectfully urge you to sign AB 1319. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


Carmen A. Trutanich
City Attorney

cc: Michael Prozio, Governor's Legislative Secretary



September 2, 2009

The Honorable Paul Krekorian
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4005
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Krekorian:

On behalf of the RIAA¹ and its member companies, we are writing to support your bill A.B. 1319, legislation that is intended to help end fraudulent activity by scam talent agents against child artists and their parents.

Importantly, the August 27th amendment to the bill adds clarification to the definition of "fee," as well as new intent language, which will ensure that legitimate contractual business relationships between artists and record companies will not be negatively affected. Such language is particularly necessary given the distinctive, new and evolving agreements within the music industry that might be inadvertently and improperly interpreted as covered by the bill. We understand there is no intention of impeding these productive relationships between artists and record companies, and the amended language goes a long way toward ensuring that this legislation does no unintentional harm.

We greatly appreciate working with you and the sponsors of A.B. 1319 to effectively address the predatory practices of scam agents. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Bainwol", is written over a light-colored background.

Mitch Bainwol
Chairman and CEO

¹ The Recording Industry Association of America, Inc. ("RIAA") is a trade association whose member companies create, manufacture and/or distribute approximately 90% of all legitimate sound recordings produced and sold in the United States.

AFTRA

American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, AFL-CIO

September 1, 2009

VIA EMAIL AND FACSIMILE

The Honorable Paul Krekorian
Assembly Assistant Majority Floor Leader
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 4005
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 1319

Dear Assembly Member Krekorian:

AFTRA is pleased to support your bill, AB 1319, which addresses the problem of abusive business practices and fraud that permeates the advance-fee talent industry. As a union that represents performers in entertainment, sound recordings, and broadcast media, we applaud your efforts to put a stop to scam artists who prey upon talent who aspire to make a living in the entertainment industry and protect the public from such activity.

Presently, there is no law that regulates talent training services or talent listing services, which are avenues that have been extensively exploited by talent scammers. Aside from causing substantial monetary loss, usually to persons who can least afford it, talent scams cause severe emotional harm to victims and their families.

AB 1319 provides district attorneys with the tools necessary to protect the public, especially children. In addition, this measure benefits legitimate businesses that offer talent representation, training, counseling and other services.

Thank you for authoring this important consumer protection bill.

Sincerely,


Kim Roberts Hedgpeth
National Executive Director

cc. (via email only) Mark Lambert, Office of the City Attorney, Corruption, Frauds & Enforcement II
Karen Stuart, ATA Executive Director
Zino Macaluso, SAG National Director/Sr. Counsel, Agency Relations
William F. Thomas, AFTRA Los Angeles Local Executive Director
Consuelo Flores, AFTRA Los Angeles Director, Agency, Member Ed. & EEO
Thomas R. Carpenter, AFTRA National General Counsel
Sarah Leah Tarlow, AFTRA National Assistant General Counsel
Megan Capuano, AFTRA National Director Agency Relations

Kim Roberts Hedgpeth
National Executive Director
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MELISSA PATAK
Vice President
State Government Affairs

818.935.5838 direct
Melissa_Patak@mpaa.org

August 11, 2009

The Honorable Christine Kehoe, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol-Room 5050
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: AB 1319 - Support

Dear Senator Kehoe:

On behalf of the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. and our member companies*, I am writing to let you know of our support for AB 1319.

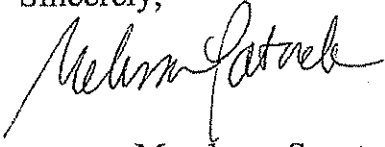
The bill sets forth new standards to address fraud in the talent industry. By outlawing advance-fee talent representation services, the legislation prohibits bait-and-switch scams that invite children to audition for acting jobs in an attempt to sell photographs, classes and listing services. The bill does not affect the legitimate talent agencies that earn money through commissions and do not charge advance fees.

The bill also includes important consumer protection provisions that will help prevent fraud, identity theft, and unwanted access to minors in all areas of the talent industry, including training, counseling, and listing. These new requirements will provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to protect children and their families.

* The Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. includes: The Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment, Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal Studios LLLP; Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1319. Please feel free to contact me, or our legislative advocate, Terri Thomas, at (916) 325-1010, with any questions.

Sincerely,



cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Bob Franzoia, Committee Consultant
Corey Botts, Republican Consultant
Assemblymember Paul Krekorian
Terri Thomas



The Walt Disney Company

August 10, 2009

The Honorable Christine Kehoe, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol-Room 5050
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: AB 1319 (Krekorian) - Support

Dear Senator Kehoe:

On behalf of The Walt Disney Company I am writing to express our support for AB 1319 (Krekorian) RE: Talent Services. This bill establishes a revised statutory framework for regulating advanced-fee talent training and talent listing services.

As a company focused on high quality family entertainment, we have been concerned about reports received from families who believe they were misled into signing contracts with an expectation of employment or an audition for one of our television shows. This measure provides protection for minors and their families by clearly delineating the requirements for advanced-fee talent agents who engage in recruitment activities. This legislation also addresses the advertising practices of these businesses and prohibits them from using a trademark in a false or misleading way.

We are pleased to join with the author and co-sponsors in supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Pitney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Lisa Pitney
Vice President, Government Relations

LP/vrc

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Bob Franzoia, Committee Consultant
Corey Botts, Republican Consultant
The Honorable Paul Krekorian
Terri Thomas, Thomas Advocacy, Inc.



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MELISSA PATAACK
 Vice President
 State Government Affairs

818.935.5838 direct
 Melissa_Pataack@mpaa.org

May 19, 2009

The Honorable Paul Krekorian
 State Capitol
 Room 4005
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1319 - Support

Dear Assemblymember Krekorian:

On behalf of the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. and our member companies*, I am writing to let you know of our support for AB 1319.

The bill sets forth new standards to address fraud in the talent industry. By outlawing advance-fee talent representation services, the legislation prohibits bait-and-switch scams that invite children to audition for acting jobs in an attempt to sell photographs, classes and listing services. The bill does not affect the legitimate talent agencies that earn money through commissions and do not charge advance fees.

The bill also includes important consumer protection provisions that will help prevent fraud, identity theft, and unwanted access to minors in all areas of the talent industry, including training, counseling, and listing. These new requirements will provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to protect children and their families.

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The Honorable Paul Krekorian
May 19, 2009
Page 2

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1319. Please feel free to contact me, or our legislative advocate, Terri Thomas, at (916) 325-1010, with any questions.

Sincerely,



cc: Terri Thomas



TONY RACKAUCKAS
ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
401 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST • SANTA ANA, CA 92701 (714) 834-3636

June 19, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harman
State Senator, 35th District
State Capitol Building, Room 2052
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA U.S. AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 1319

Dear Senator Harman:

I write in support of Assembly Bill 1319 which addressed the problem of abusive business practices and fraud that permeates the advance-fee talent industry.

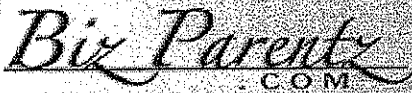
Presently, there is no law that regulates talent training services or talent listing services, which are avenues that have been extensively exploited by talent scammers. Aside from causing substantial monetary loss, usually to persons who can least afford it, talent scams cause severe emotional harm to victims and their families.

AB 1319 provides district attorneys with the tools necessary to protect the public, especially children. Additionally, this measure benefits legitimate businesses that offer talent representation, training, counseling and other services.

Sincerely,


Tony Rackauckas
District Attorney

TR:vlb



April 21, 2009

Assemblymember Paul Krekorian, AB 1319 Author
Assemblymember Mike Davis, AB 1319 Co-Author
Assemblymember Fiona Ma, AB 1319 Co-Author
Assemblymember William Monning, Chairperson
California State Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment

Re: AB 1319 SUPPORT

Dear Chairperson and Honorable Committee Members,

Our organization, BizParentz Foundation, is in strong support of AB 1319, regarding Advance Fee Talent Services.

BizParentz is a non-profit California organization that serves families with children in the entertainment industry (professional child actors). You can find our website at www.bizparentz.org. We have a constituency of about 5,000 families, which makes us the largest non-profit serving this population in the nation.

Our primary role is the education of parents in making wise business decisions for their children. While our primary service population is professional actors, that role forces us to become "experts" of sorts on talent scams against children. When people want to know how the entertainment industry *really* works, they call us.

2008 has been a devastating year for California families in the area of talent scams and questionable Advance Fee Talent Services. Our organization is literally pushed to the limit of our capabilities as we answer hundreds of emails and phone calls a month from parents requesting help.

The stories are heartbreaking: families who are approached by "scouts" in malls, fairs or schools with promises of Disney or Nickelodeon auditions (logos used without studio permission of course) or meetings with "famous Hollywood talent agents". The deceptive advertising is blatant and they are very, very good at what they do. It is a bait and switch: most often these businesses are offering acting classes, "connections", websites, photos or showcases. The going rate has gotten much higher in the last year—\$5000-\$10000 for six months of services, if they get the services at all. In reality, these businesses have little connection to the real entertainment industry. Their purpose is simply to part parents from their money, and children from their dreams.

CONT 1 of 2

PAGE 2

One example was “birthed” in California, Pacific Modeling and Acting Academy. PMAA started in the Bay Area, and then traveled the country, offering “open calls” and classes in hotels. The price? Up to \$11,900 per child. In less than 6 months, PMAA was out of business and their owner is now in bankruptcy court. He lists nearly 2500 families across the country as “creditors”. We call them victims. Children’s hearts were broken. Families are in deep debt. In this economy, with families stressed to the limit, that is particularly tragic.

California has always been a leader in protecting the rights of young performers. While our current Advance Fee Talent went a long way toward quieting the scams, we have found that the disreputable businesses have adjusted their business models so as not to be included in the current law. This bill would tighten that, and allow law enforcement to do their job by investigating the businesses adequately. Passage of this new bill will send a clear message that California will not allow fraudulent businesses to prey on our children.

Please pass AB 1319. Our sincere gratitude goes out to the authors of this bill—we truly believe you have done a wonderful service by bringing this issue before the Assembly. We are more than willing to answer any questions you might have. If needed, please contact us at 818-731-9897.

Thank you for ongoing concern for our children,

Anne Henry
Co-Founder
BizParentz Foundation

Paula Dorn
Co-Founder
BizParentz Foundation

P.O. Box 2477 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91729