



ASSOCIATION OF
TALENT AGENTS
Since 1937

May 11, 2012

The Honorable Felipe Fuentes, Chairman
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1660 (Campos) –SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Fuentes:

The Association of Talent Agents, a non-profit trade association representing the state's licensed talent agents, is writing to urge your support for AB 1660 (Campos). The measure will prohibit a person from representing minors under 18 years of age in the entertainment industry without first receiving a Child Performer Services Permit from the state Labor Commissioner.

Existing law already requires a person or corporation that acts as a talent agency to pay a filing fee and obtain a license from the Department of Industrial Relations to represent artists, including those who are minors. The law requires licensed talent agents to provide a business history, financial information, and information generated from conducting fingerprinting. Talent agencies are also required to post a bond with the Labor Commissioner before a license may be issued.

The entertainment industry is a unique working environment. It is a common practice in the industry for children to be in the company of adults who are not their parents in the context of photographers, managers, "casting agents," and others. These situations necessarily involve the adult being in a trusting relationship with the child. In fact, there have been recent Southern California arrests of unlicensed agents involved in the entertainment industry on child abuse-related offenses.

The Association of Talent Agencies believes AB 1660 will help protect children working in the entertainment industry, by requiring any person who works unsupervised with child artists to submit his or her name and a fee to the Labor Commissioner to permit screening of that individual to determine if he or she is a registered sex offender. No person who is identified as a sex offender would be permitted to represent artists who are minors.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support for AB 1660.

Sincerely,

Karen Stuart
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Nora Campos, Member of the Assembly
Barry S. Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.

Executive Director
KAREN STUART

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