

AB 2242: Sextortion Warning Poster

Assemblymember Laurie Davies

IN BRIEF

AB 2242 would require each public school maintaining any combination of grades 7 to 12 on or before the start of the 2027–28 school year, to display in at least one men’s restroom and one women’s restroom used by pupils a legible poster printed in both English and Spanish that contains specified information relating to sextortion, including, among other information, an age-appropriate description of sextortion and contact information for local, state, and federal law enforcement for purposes of reporting or seeking assistance relating to sextortion.

THE ISSUE

California is at the center of sexual exploitation and “sextortion” crisis, recording more reports of child sexual exploitation than any other state. In 2024, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) CyberTipline received 103,789 total reports. Nationally, the volume of exploitation reports has grown at an “unfathomable” rate. According to NCMEC and the FBI, reports of online enticement (which includes sextortion) increased by 192% between 2023 and 2024, reaching over 546,000 annual reports. This surge continued into 2025; in the first six months of 2025 alone, online enticement reports jumped from approximately 293,000 to over 518,000 compared to the same period in 2024.

Sextortion is a crime that thrives in the shadows; it relies entirely on the victim’s intense fear of social ruin and parental disappointment. The moments immediately following an extortion threat are often characterized by blind panic, during which students frequently make the mistake of paying the predator or sending more explicit content in a desperate attempt to keep the person quiet.

California should provide more resources to students at their time of need in the event they find

themselves in these situations. Many law enforcement agencies have individuals and tools to help students and their families combat nefarious individuals who choose to target them.

CURRENT LAW

Existing law requires each schoolsite in a school district, county office of education, or charter school, serving pupils in any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, to create a poster that notifies pupils of that policy and to prominently and conspicuously display the poster in each bathroom and locker room at the schoolsite, as specified.

THE SOLUTION

The proposed bill would require schools to also include posters with resources for students and families to get information on how to combat any sextortion scheme they find themselves in.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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