

101 NORTH CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-3713
OFFICE: (775) 684-5670



1 STATE OF NEVADA WAY
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89119-4339
OFFICE: (702) 486-2500

Office of the Governor

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Francisco Aguilar
Nevada Secretary of State
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Assembly Bill 209 of the 83rd Legislative Session

Dear Secretary of State Aguilar,

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Assembly Bill 209 ("AB 209"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to crimes; providing immunity from criminal liability for engaging in prostitution or solicitation for prostitution under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Encouraging sex workers to report violent crimes is a commendable goal, but AB 209 requires further refinement to effectively achieve this. The bill codifies a lack of trust in law enforcement by assuming that sex workers fear prosecution more than they trust officers to prioritize their safety and the investigation of violent crimes. While law enforcement agencies should actively work to build trust and address these concerns, it is inappropriate for legislation to institutionalize distrust in the very institutions meant to protect victims.

Although Section 2 of AB 209 frames the bill as a tool to support victims of serious violent crimes, the operative language in Section 3 does not actually limit immunity to those circumstances. The bill provides immunity for violations of prostitution laws any time medical assistance is sought, without requiring that a violent crime has occurred. This disconnect creates a significant policy loophole. In practice, a sex worker acting in bad

faith could report any crime, no matter how minor or unrelated, and still claim immunity from prosecution.

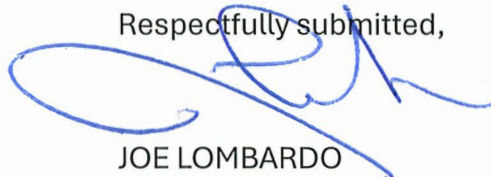
Additionally, the statute does not define the type, severity, or relevance of the medical assistance that triggers immunity. As a result, individuals could potentially exploit the provision by seeking treatment for minor or entirely unrelated conditions, solely to shield themselves from legal consequences. This ambiguity invites uneven enforcement, judicial confusion, and misuse of public resources.

The lack of limiting language may also have unintended consequences for public safety. Law enforcement officers, anticipating that prostitution-related arrests could be nullified by a claim of medical assistance, may become less likely to investigate such cases. This could result in fewer leads on related crimes, including human trafficking and organized criminal activity, where early intervention is critical.

AB 209 risks weakening essential tools for combating exploitation and serious sex work-related crimes by creating uncertainty around the timing and scope of immunity, thereby undermining enforcement efforts. As such, I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it without my signature or approval.

Respectfully submitted,



JOE LOMBARDO
Governor of Nevada

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Stavros Anthony, President of the Senate (without enclosure)
The Honorable Nicole Cannizzaro, Senate Majority Leader (without enclosure)
The Honorable Steve Yeager, Speaker of the Nevada Assembly (without enclosure)
Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Diane Thornton, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Director (without enclosure)
Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)