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November 11, 2012

An Open Letter to each of the Honorable Mayors and City Councils of each Incorporated City in Los Angeles County that contract with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health:

Agoura Hills, Alhambra, Arcadia, Artesia, Avalon, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Beverly Hills, Bradbury, Burbank, Calabasas, Carson, Cerritos, Claremont, Commerce, Compton, Covina, Cudahy, Culver City, Diamond Bar, Downey, Duarte, El Monte, El Segundo, Gardena, Glendale, Glendora, Hawaiian Gardens, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Hidden Hills, Huntington Park, Industry, Inglewood, Irwindale, La Cañada Flintridge, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, La Puente, La Verne, Lakewood, Lancaster, Lawndale, Lomita, Los Angeles, Lynwood, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Maywood, Monrovia, Montebello, Monterey Park, Norwalk, Palmdale, Palos Verdes Estates, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Pomona, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Rosemead, San Dimas, San Fernando, San Gabriel, San Marino, Santa Clarita, Santa Fe Springs, Santa Monica, Sierra Madre, Signal Hill, South El Monte, South Gate, South Pasadena, Temple City, Torrance, Walnut, West Covina, West Hollywood, Westlake Village and Whittier

Subject: Los Angeles County Ballot Measure B – The Safer Sex Initiative

As you are no doubt aware, each of your legislative bodies will have to independently decide after public debate if you want to adopt Measure B as the law in your respective cities. At first glance, this legislation may seem honorable and in the public interest. Additionally, you may find it easy to ratify simply because you may not like the adult film industry.

But in truth, even if this legislation were to accomplish its stated purpose which according to its proponent the Aids Healthcare Foundation, is to protect workplace and performer health in the legitimate adult film industry, it will still be unworkable and far more counter productive to the public health. Therefore I respectfully request that you reject Measure B for at least but not limited to the following reasons - all of which have been extensively discussed in the mainstream media:

- If you adopt this as law, you will create a victimless crime – “condom-less porn”. Yet consumer demand for this product will not decrease, much less disappear. In fact, you can expect the demand to increase simply because the product will be illegal.
- That demand would be filled by a new and illegal underground economy operated by gangs and eventually organized crime, with its associated filth and violence.
- STD-induced sickness and fatalities will increase because an illegal underground industry will not go “above ground” to hire tested and disease-free performers from legitimate and licensed talent agencies. Instead they will recruit performers from the streets and street walking pimp and prostitution rings. And, they will not be able or willing to follow testing protocols.

Measure B

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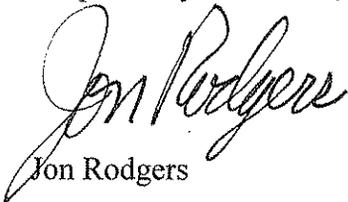
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- Tax revenues will disappear because illegal underground industries do not pay taxes while enforcement costs, especially to police the gangs and to pay for more frequent adverse health incidents, will increase budgets.
- Statistics show that a health problem does exist in the sexually active, promiscuous and drug-using general population, but not in the adult film industry. In support, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky offered that out of more than 20,000 HIV incidents in Los Angeles County since 2004, the adult industry, because it employs rigorous self-imposed HIV testing protocols, accounts for less than 20 of those incidents. Testing is not foolproof of course. But it still equates to less than 1/10th of 1 % which is probably as foolproof as any method of protection can medically achieve.

In summary, if you adopt Measure B, you will in effect return to the days of Prohibition where untold thousands of people died in gang wars and from drinking tainted liquor and beer. Likewise, you may influence the general public to foolishly and naively believe that using a condom will protect them from exposure to STD's and thus pursue more frequent promiscuous and dangerous sexual activity that could cause untold sickness and even death.

Therefore and all things considered, I trust that each of your legislative bodies will reject Measure B – The Safer Sex Initiative.

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Rodgers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

Jon Rodgers

Cc: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health