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March 10, 2016

Assemblymember Marc Levine
California State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Room 2141
Sacramento, CA 94249-0010

Dear Assemblymember Levine,

As a former fashion model, commercial actress and television host turned author, speaker and mental health advocate, I am passionate about making significant changes for the greater good of the public. Due to my past, life-threatening experiences as a model, I have a special interest in helping to make long-term, positive changes within the industry that will benefit not only other models, but society as well. I fully support AB 2539 legislation, which strives to create healthier standards within the modeling industry and promotes a safe and fair working environment.

I can verify that the modeling business is poorly regulated; during my career I encountered bullying from agents and other professionals, sexual harassment, rape, was exposed to drugs and alcohol, had payments withheld beyond the legal periods or was never paid at all, and was pressured to lose so much weight that I eventually developed anorexia nervosa and had to exit the industry due to my illness in 2012. While these are all things that no person should ever have to experience, they are a mere fraction of what I went through. I do not think, however, that the modeling industry should be vilified, rather that it can benefit from restructuring and improved health conditions. This is why Bill AB 2539 is critically needed.

Models' rights are human rights. Models are humans who deserve to be treated fairly and with respect; they deserve protection and their labor rights to be exercised, just like any person working in any industry. If we can change the way that the health standards are within the industry, then this can in turn have a

positive impact on society as well. Models make up a majority of the people in the thousands of advertisements we are exposed to every day. Nearly half of girls in 5th to 12th grade reported wanting to lose weight because of magazine pictures; if the model's mental, emotional and physical health are taken care of and they are educated about becoming role models, imagine the profound effect this can have on children – and adults – everywhere.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nikki DuBose". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Nikki DuBose
Author, Speaker, Mental Health Advocate
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Peaceful Hearts Foundation & Project Heal SoCal