

June 8, 2026

The Honorable Ash Kalra
California State Assembly, District 25
1021 O Street, Suite 4610
Sacramento, CA 95814
assemblymember.kalra@assembly.ca.gov



Dear Assembly Member Kalra:

On behalf of tens of thousands of constituents, allied organizations, and more than 2,000 churches across California, California Family Council is proud to endorse AB 2534.

No one should be forced into marriage. Forced marriage is a severe form of coercion that strips individuals, most often young women and girls, of their freedom, their voice, and their future.¹ Marriage must rest on the free and full consent of both parties; coerced unions are not marriages in any meaningful sense.

This bill protects the vulnerable, especially women and children. Scripture calls us to "defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed" (Psalm 82:3, ESV). Between 2009 and 2011 alone, the Tahirih Justice Center documented nearly 3,000 cases of forced marriage or risk of forced marriage in the United States, many involving minors, with California among the states where cases were reported.² California's existing legal framework leaves these victims without adequate protective remedies.

AB 2534 closes a critical gap in California law. Current law criminalizes completed forced marriages but leaves victims of attempted or extrajudicial coercion without access to protective orders.³ This bill explicitly recognizes forced marriage as domestic violence under the DVPA, authorizing courts to intervene before a victim is removed from the state or country and beyond the reach of help.

For these reasons, California Family Council is proud to **support** AB 2534.

Respectfully,



Greg Burt
Vice President
California Family Council

References

¹ AB 2534 (Kalra) Author's Fact Sheet, March 10, 2026. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2534

² Assembly Floor Analysis, AB 2534, April 24, 2026 (citing Tahirih Justice Center forced marriage data, 2009-2011).

³ Assembly Appropriations Committee Analysis, AB 2534, April 20, 2026.