

For Immediate Release  
September 26, 2006

Contact: Sharon Sandow, Chief of Staff  
(213) 473-7003/(213)276-2107

***ZINE SUPPORTS AB 1873 (TORRICO) AMENDING EXISTING SAFE SURRENDER  
BABY LAW***

(Los Angeles) - Councilman Zine today received unanimous support from his City Council colleagues in his resolution relative to the City's position on AB 1873, which would amend the existing California Safely Surrendered Baby Law. Under existing law, a parent may safely drop off their child within 72 hours of the child's birth to a safe surrender site, which includes hospitals and fire stations. AB 1873 expands the law to provide for 30 days of "safe surrender" or relinquishment of the newborn.

Assemblymember Alberto Torrico, who authored the bill, testified in City Council today in support of AB 1873. He expressed the trend by other states to extend the amount of time a baby may be safely surrendered, providing more opportunities for parents to relinquish their newborn safely. Medical definition of newborn is 28-30 days, and parents often have intervening issues which may prevent appropriate action within the current 72 hour time frame. Councilman Zine supported the expansion in time, joining 35 other states nationwide which have provisions longer than the original 72 hours. Nationwide, 47 states have enacted safe haven legislation to provide for safe relinquishment.

"I wholeheartedly believe that this extension from 72 hours to 30 days will save lives and provide an opportunity for the future for these infants," said Councilman Zine, "We want to be a society with compassion for humanity, and I strongly support this law which provides a future for surrendered newborn children. We now need to turn our attention to how we are going to get the word out that safe haven opportunities are available for newborns."

Assembly Bill 1873 currently is awaiting signature by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

###