

Brianna

Testifying on HB2019 and SB673

March 25 and 26, 2013

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My name is Brianna and I am the youngest of 5 children. I grew up in a small town and enjoyed playing sports and going to school. I began going to college while I was in high school and had really good grades. I wish I knew back then what I know today.

The first time I met Nick was in 2010, I was a senior in high school, he came into the café where I waitressed at. Nick told me that he was just at a strip club in Portland Oregon where the front light of his Mercedes was messed up by a guy during a fight. He said that the guy wanted something that wasn't his to have. None of this really made much sense to me and the conversation quickly turned to me. He was really flirty and had soft eyes; he came off very genuine and kind. After his meal he wanted me to call him, he also said that he wanted to see me again. I wanted to talk to him more too; we had just about every single thing in common. It was like Nick understood me better than anyone.

Three weeks later just before I was going to leave to Arizona for a "Christmas vacation" with Nick I find out some information that devastates me to this day. Nick is a human sex trafficker. Nick was actually taking me to Arizona, not for a vacation, but to sell me to another trafficker. The reason I thought Nick and I had everything in common was because he made it seem that way, because Nick's group stalked me for about a year before he ever met me... By having his friends stalking me he was able to make me think that we were meant to meet each other.

While I knew Nick he gave me a phone that had his number set to speed dial, looking through the phone with police we discovered a text message that read, "My new hot blonde in Medford..." Come to find out Nick's sex trafficking group was working the 1-5 corridor from Seattle, to Medford Oregon and beyond.

And the saddest part of this whole story? This happened to me in December 2009, 3+ years ago. Just 5 months ago we called the Medford Police Department and asked them to make a statement for a newspaper article concerning domestic sex trafficking in their city, they responded by saying, "we don't have that problem here," and hung up the phone. I know they are not bad police in Medford, but just like the officer that saved my life said, "six months ago I didn't know". I am here today because that officer had learned what trafficking really was from other law enforcement and Shared Hope international. I believe that Law enforcement in Medford and all of Oregon can learn to identify trafficking and become defenders of this vulnerable population of girls.

I want to thank you on the committee for hearing our testimony's today. I want to thank you for passing through your committee a strong law that will make Oregon a safer place for girls to grow up, a place where girls who are robbed of their innocence and childhood are rescued and restored instead of incarcerated.