

Testimony for SB 673 A - Thursday - May 23, 2013

Chairman Barker, members of the Judiciary committee; My name is Phillip Dean Martin, I live at 3334 Pioneer Dr SE in Salem Oregon.

Thank you for tackling this difficult topic. I support SB 673, and additionally support a felony offense on a second offense, rather than a misdemeanor.

I have recently become aware of the issue of sex trafficking. Previously I thought sex trafficking was something that happened in other parts of the world, like Africa and Asia, but not in the United States, and particularly not in Oregon.

I was surprised, disappointed, and then very concerned, to discover we have a significant sex trafficking problem in Oregon. I also learned Oregon law is less strict than sex trafficking law in Washington State. This current disparity of law between Washington and Oregon promotes the spread of sex trafficking in Oregon. As a parent of four daughters, and as a concerned citizen for all Oregon children, I support the efforts of Shared Hope International, and would like to see Oregon create better laws to protect our children in Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my concerns to you today.