

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

Chairman Barker, members of the committee, My name is Nannette Martin, my address is 3334 Pioneer Dr SE, Salem, OR 97302.

When I was nineteen years old, a man named [REDACTED] came to my home to visit my mother and I. [REDACTED] was a pimp, and he brought my 15-year-old half-sister with him. The reason for this visit: [REDACTED] had recently been arrested for his "business" activities. In an effort to keep my sister from testifying against him, he wanted permission to marry her.

My half-sister had a different upbringing that I did. She had faced severe sexual abuse, and in the turmoil of her life become a runaway. I'll never forget going to the store to buy milk and seeing my sister on the milk carton! We had no idea where she was for a very long time. When she finally made contact, we found out that this "wonderful" man [REDACTED] had taken her in and put her to work. She told us she was the receptionist and set up dates for his escort service. When we asked her more, she said that there were many lonely men and there were nice women who would go and watch TV, and spend time with them. She thought we would actually believe that. We don't know the actual extent of the work she did. She never talked about it [REDACTED] did not get permission to marry my 15-year-old sister, and eventually he was put in prison and somehow my sister escaped from that life.

This happened 30-years ago, and that business was referred to as prostitution. The business of delivering sex to customers was much more simplistic and straightforward in that day. The men in this business today are much more sophisticated. The tactics of procuring "product" have become much more insidious, and delivery and distribution occur in ways we could never imagine. There are actually written guides from experts in the business that teach every aspect of the industry. Today, the term for this new, revamped and expanded business model is more commonly called, "sex trafficking," and NO, it doesn't just happen in foreign countries.

These men no longer show up at doors trying to marry a 15-year-old to solve their problems with the law. Today, our sisters, daughters, and granddaughters face much more heinous solutions when a pimp feels the heat. What is clear is that Oregon's laws have not evolved and kept pace with the sophistication, and creative marketing techniques of these predators, and the new ways they have come up with to avoid prosecution. We have, through lack of awareness, allowed a culture that invites criminals and their customers to come from other states, for easy pickings of our ever younger and younger, boys and girls.

I urge your support of laws that will make our state a place known to protect children from sexual slavery and abuse, and serve harsh, appropriate punishments on those who would violate them, not just physically, but mentally and emotionally. I have seen the effects of this in my own family.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.