



KATHLEEN TAYLOR
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 41
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 15, 2015
House Judiciary Committee
3PM, Hearing Rm 343

HB 3040

Chair Barker and members of the committee,

For the record, I am State Representative Kathleen Taylor, representing Milwaukie, Oak Gove and parts of Southeast Portland. Thank you for the opportunity to speak about House Bill 3040.

You've heard before about the interim CSEC workgroup, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. Rep. John Huffman and I participated in those meetings, along with a wide variety of stakeholders -- Sen. Ron Wyden, Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, Commissioner Diane McKeel, as well as law enforcement, agency personnel, health professionals, child advocates and more.

The Multnomah County District Attorneys brought forth the concept for HB 3040. This bill would allow the admissibility of certain hearsay statements as evidence in sex trafficking cases when the victim is unavailable. It is modeled after a hearsay exception for victims of domestic violence, already in statute. And not unlike DV victims, sex trafficked individuals are often frightened, have left town, or are otherwise unavailable by the time of trial. This bill would give prosecutors more tools to convict traffickers and abusers who prey on these vulnerable women.

I need to get back to committee, but first, I want to introduce Laura Rowan and JR Ujifusa, from the Multnomah County District Attorney office. They have worked extensively with these victims and can better explain the need for and the provisions in the bill.

Again, thank you for your consideration. I urge you to move this bill forward.