

February 12, 2016

Re: Support for House Bill 4082

Dear Chair Prozanski and Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for HB 4082 to expand the promoting prostitution statute in Oregon. This is an important piece of legislation that will help address prostitution-related exploitation of young people in our community.

HB 4082 would expand the existing statute for promoting prostitution beyond just the exchange of money or property to also include goods and services. This proposal is based on real-world examples and will better hold traffickers and buyers accountable for their exploitation of others.

In 2009, we formed a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Steering Committee to bring together partners to collaboratively address and share ideas. This group's efforts have focused on better identifying and supporting survivors, investigating and prosecuting offenders, and building awareness among members of our community.

This issue has been a priority throughout my time in office, and I have worked closely with our service providers, law enforcement representatives, and legislative partners to develop models to replicate in other parts of the state and advocate for legislation to enhance our response to trafficking. Under the leadership of Representatives Taylor and Huffman this work has continued at a statewide level, and I have appreciated the opportunity to participate in and support their work.

HB 4082 is another important step forward and will help this statute better capture the criminal behavior involved in promoting prostitution. It is a good bill, has my full support, and I appreciate your consideration of it this session.

Sincerely,



Diane McKeel
Multnomah County Commissioner
Chair of Multnomah County CSEC Steering Committee