



Kathleen Taylor
State Representative
House District 41

HB 4082: *Expands the Promoting Prostitution Statute*

Co-Chief Sponsors: Representative Taylor, Representative Huffman, Senator Gelser, Senator Knopp, Representative Stark, Representative Gallegos

Background:

The CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) Workgroup, co-chaired by Representatives Taylor and Huffman, brings together state and local elected officials, law enforcement, advocates, public defenders, and district attorneys in order to address the growing problem of sex trafficking, especially the trafficking of minors, in Oregon. This workgroup seeks to improve protections of, and services to, survivors of sex trafficking; and additionally seeks to hold perpetrators, both traffickers and johns, accountable.

A growing number of young people are coerced into entering prostitution and many of those who are engaged in prostitution are under the control of a pimp, or trafficker. Currently, the crime of Promoting Prostitution is committed when an individual agrees to receive money or property that has been obtained as a result of an act of prostitution. This leaves out the receipt of other goods, services, or “anything else of value” which are often exchanged in agreement for an act of prostitution. Prosecution is faced with greater barriers in proving an individual is involved in the promotion of prostitution with the current, narrower, definition.

HB 4082:

HB 4082 expands the promoting prostitution statute ORS 167.012 to include receiving goods, services, or other things of value derived from prostitution activity in certain circumstances. This expansion will allow the statute to align more accurately with how the crime of promoting prostitution takes place on the ground. HB 4082 makes no other adjustments to the crime of promoting prostitution, and the crime remains a Class C felony.