



ROD UNDERHILL, District Attorney for Multnomah County

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Re: House Bill 2793

Dear Chair Barker and members of the Committee,

I urge you to support House Bill 2793. Human Trafficking, specifically Sex Trafficking, is a serious problem throughout Oregon and the United States. In the eight years I have been working sex trafficking cases a common issue has emerged in combatting sex trafficking; reducing demand. Deterring buyers from purchasing minors and adults reduces demand. Research regarding buyers has shown that public awareness, employers and loved ones finding out, losing a car or other possessions and “john schools” deter or reduce demand. Allowing the court to contact licensing and permitting agencies, suspending an offender’s driving privileges and requiring education are all sound means towards deterring individuals from engaging in purchasing sex and reducing recidivism for those caught.

Statistics show that in Multnomah County there are roughly 11,000 attempts to purchase sex online each week. This bill would help to reduce demand and also hold individuals accountable who are arrested engaging in Commercial Sexual Solicitation. Once convicted or able to take advantage of a diversion program, individuals will be educated on the truths regarding sex trafficking, the harm their actions have in their community and resources to prevent commercial sexual solicitation in the future.

This bill sends a strong message that buying sex is not appropriate and will deter those thinking of engaging in this crime as well as preventing future harm by reducing recidivism for those who have already engaged.

Regards,

ROD UNDERHILL
District Attorney
Multnomah County, Oregon

By: _____

Sr. Deputy District Attorney Glen (JR)
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