

Kate Brown
Governor



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OCFW Testimony in support of SB 249A and SB 250
May 3, 2017, 1 pm, HR 343
House Committee on Judiciary

Chair Barker, Vice Chairs Olson and Williamson, and Reps. Gorsek, Greenlick, Lininger, Post, Sanchez, Sprenger, Stark, and Vial:

The Oregon Commission for Women, in its role as advocate for the women of Oregon, strongly supports SB 249A and SB 250 as two bills this session that gives those who have been trapped in the cycle of sex trafficking an opportunity to minimize their contact with the justice system and access to the necessary supports to achieve a life free from abuse.

The OCFW has long recognized the systemic and long-term impacts of sex trafficking and sentencing from prostitution charges. A 2013 PSU study examined children apprehended for prostitution as a result of sex trafficking. The study revealed that between the years 2009-2013, 469 commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) victims were identified and served by DHS & SARC in the Portland Metro Area. As of July 2013, an additional 159 individuals active CSEC cases have been identified.

Of these victims, the average age was 15.5, with the youngest trafficked for sex at age eight and the oldest at age 22. 96.4% of victims were female, 2.8% were male, and 0.9% were transgender. African American youth were disproportionately represented in this sample. African Americans make up 5.8% of Multnomah County's population, yet they account for 27.1% of CSEC victims in the Portland Metro Area. These victims deserve the chance to move forward with their lives without fear that they will be forever marred by involuntary events in their past.

We urge the committee to positively consider SB 249A and SB 250 which establishes procedures for a person to file motion to vacate judgment of conviction for prostitution and an affirmative defense to the crime of prostitution, if the person was the victim of sex trafficking at or around the time of offense.

Barbara Ramirez Spencer
Chair, Oregon Commission for Women

OR Commission for Women

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