



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association
Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments www.ojdda.org

Re: Senate Bill 250

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association Supports Senate Bill 250

During the 2012 Legislative Session, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 4146, amending Oregon's juvenile record expungement statute and allowing a person the opportunity to have early expunction of that part of their record related to the crime of prostitution, if the person had been under the age of 18 at the time of the incident. This was an integral step in acknowledging that youth engaged in prostitution were victims of sexual exploitation and not perpetrators of criminal activity.

Research shows that most sex-industry survivors were sexually assaulted in their childhood and even more have been assaulted either physically or sexually while being involved in the industry. The vast majority of individuals who have engaged in prostitution practices were victims of childhood sexual or physical abuse. The impact of this trauma on healthy neurological and psychological development is well established. These individuals need treatment, not punishment.

Senate Bill 250 would bring further acknowledgement of the connection between human trafficking and prostitution and continue to differentiate between the culpability of human traffickers and victims. As HB 4146 did on the back end of the system, SB 250 would address this matter on the front end. SB 250 would provide persons with an affirmative defense to the crime of prostitution if the person was a victim of the crime of trafficking in persons (ORS 163.266 (1)(b) or (c)) at the time of the alleged offense.

<http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/sexualoffenses/cntenot/article/10168/48311>).

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