



HUMAN TRAFFICKING
IN OUR BACKYARD

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Nita Belles, Executive Director

February 21, 2017

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House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 331
Salem, OR 97301
Attn: Rep. John Huffman
RE: HB2141 & 2142

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for hearing written testimony on this bill, as the roads from Central Oregon are difficult.

HB2141 is an effective way to address those who either promote the sale of human beings, or feel it is their right to purchase another human being for sex. Every “business” (please keep in mind this is not a business but a criminal enterprise that preys on our weakest members of society) requires supply and demand to continue. Sex trafficking would be nonexistent if it weren’t for the Demand.

Those who purchase, sex live among us. Recently in stings I worked with in Houston TX surrounding Super Bowl, sex buyers arrested there held positions such as Firemen, Pilot, Retired Police Sergeant, School counselor, and one sex buyer, a father, who had his four-year-old child with him, solicited an undercover officer. These are citizens we work with and who are all around us. Purchasing sex is a crime and the penalties should be appropriately motivational for those crimes to not be repeated.

HB2141 & 2141 provides penalties for these crimes which may help sex buyers think twice before purchasing sex because their daily lives will be impacted. These are bills which will appropriately and effectively bring a change to demand.

We must protect our children. Holding a driver’s license, professional titles, permits, certificates or even hunting and fishing licenses are all privileges which are issued to law-

abiding citizens. Those who break the law by purchasing a child for sex should have these privileges revoked.

I strongly support HB 2141 and 2142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Nita Belles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director