



HUMAN TRAFFICKING
IN OUR BACKYARD

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Nita Belles, Executive Director

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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: HB 2740

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for hearing written testimony on this bill as the pass from Central Oregon is difficult today.

HB2740 is a bill that is very much needed in our state.

As I work nationwide, a majority of states consider that anyone under the age of 18 deserves to be protected from those who wish to exploit them by purchasing them for sex. In 2000 the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a National law, mandated that any commercial sex act involving a person under 18 years of age is considered a severe form of sex trafficking.

It seems to me to be common sense to know that a child who the state may not even consider old enough to obtain a driver's license, to view R-rated movies, to purchase cigarettes, should not be considered old enough to consent to sell his or her body for sex. To consider that a child under 18 years of age should not be protected under our laws from sex traffickers is preposterous.

I am strongly in favor of HB 2740 to protect children in our state.

Sincerely,

Nita Belles

Executive Director