



METROPOLITAN PUBLIC DEFENDER MULTNOMAH COUNTY SECTION

February 8, 2018

Community Law Oregon of Metropolitan Public Defender Testimony on HB 1543 (-4)

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1543 (-4).

Community Law Oregon, an office of Metropolitan Public Defender, provides wrap-around legal services to remove barriers to housing, employment and long-term stability. Community Law includes an immigration project, a veterans' project, medical-legal partnerships and much more.

We strongly encourage your support and approval of HB 1543 (-4). Last legislative session, the legislature passed SB 249, allowing individuals to vacate a prostitution conviction from their criminal records if they could show they were under the control of a sex trafficker during the crime. However, the statute did not encompass individuals convicted of prostitution under Oregon municipal codes. We believe the legislature's intent was to allow individuals to vacate all prostitution convictions of this type, and urge the Committee to amend the law to reflect this.

In conclusion, we ask that the Subcommittee support SB 1543 (-4).

Sincerely,

Alex Bassos
Director
Community Law Oregon
Metropolitan Public Defender