

Dear Senators,

I hope you will pass SB 596, and provide amnesty to sex workers who wish to report crimes that occurred during the course of sex work that would be categorized as criminal under current local, state, or federal law.

Sex workers disproportionately represent already marginalized communities. Prostitution charges can trigger a series of other state interventions, putting entire families at risk and creating harmful lingering ties to the criminal legal system.

For example, when sex workers are victims of violence, they can't seek medical treatment without fear of mandatory reporting to police by medical providers. This, combined with the practice of prosecutors to use condoms as evidence, lays the foundations for a public health crisis.

This bill will prohibit discrimination in reporting, empowering vulnerable Oregonian families to seek the justice they are entitled to and thereby increasing the safety of all our communities.

Thank you for your vote!

Sincerely,
Emily von W Gilbert
Portland, OR