

To Chair Williamson, Vice Chair Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of Committee on House Judiciary

I am a resident of Oregon and supporter of the human rights which are also the right to safety of sex workers.

I work for a social work non-profit in a program which addresses issues of both DV and SA to youth to help them understand how important it is that everyone is treated with respect and feels safe no matter where they are or who they're with and this should also include no matter what they do for work. It goes without saying that many survivors of sexual violence never report abuse for a variety of reasons, which is why it is extremely important to make sure that we don't add any other unnecessary barriers for seeking support and proper resources.

Sex workers are some of the most vulnerable members of the community. Their line of work puts them in close contact with people from all backgrounds in often very vulnerable settings.

Right now, sex workers cannot safely report when they get assaulted, attacked, injured by ANY client because they will likely get prosecuted by the police for prostitution or attempted prostitution.

Which means they if are exposed to violence, they CURRENTLY CANNOT seek protection from law enforcement or even approaching emergency medical help.

Passing this bill would allow the basic human right for a vulnerable community to seek the same minimum level of protection all people have in OR without backlash.

This bill would allow sex workers to seek emergency services, including law-enforcement and medical care without fear of being prosecuted for prostitution or attempted prostitution.

Passing this bill would allow the basic human right for a vulnerable community to seek the same minimum level of protection all people have in OR without backlash.

My position on this Bill is that I support it and I would like it to get passed. I support SB596.

Thank you Chair Williamson, Vice Chair Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of Committee on House Judiciary

Ryan Nakano