

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 believe that everyone deserves basic safety without the fear of backlash.

- Why is this Bill Important :

- > Sex workers can be very vulnerable members of our community. Due to the sensitive nature of the work they do, they can come into close contact with lots of people (not all of whom have good intentions). Because of this, sometimes sex workers can end up in dangerous situations - at risk of being robbed, physically assaulted, sexually assaulted, etc.
- > Right now, sex workers cannot reliably/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. Even if they are not charged with anything, they are often arrested - and this in itself is scary and discourages them from seeking assistance. People who need emergency assistance should not be afraid to call for this service for fear of being unjustly punished.
- > Which means if they are exposed to violence, they cannot seek protection from law enforcement or even approaching emergency medical help. We should not be discouraging people from seeking out these services, especially in a crisis situation.
- > Passing this bill would allow this vulnerable community the basic human right to seek the same level minimum level of protection all people have in OR without backlash.

- What does it remedy:

- > 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.

- 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,

-Wispra Smith