



Jamil Kassab

Director of Labor Trafficking

Safety Compass

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Dear Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 5005, which allocates critical funding to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC). My name is Jamil Kassab, and I serve as the Director of Labor Trafficking for Safety Compass, an organization dedicated to supporting survivors of human trafficking throughout Oregon. Safety Compass successfully works alongside law enforcement to identify and support victims of human trafficking, including those exploited in illegal marijuana grow operations. This bill is essential in strengthening our ability to collaborate with law enforcement, expand our victim support network, and make a profound impact on the lives of labor trafficking.

Labor trafficking remains one of the most insidious and underreported crimes in Oregon and across the country. Victims are often hidden in plain sight, trapped in industries such as agriculture, domestic work, construction, and food service, where they endure forced labor, threats, and exploitation. As a former law enforcement officer, I have seen firsthand the immense challenges in identifying and responding to these cases. Now, in my role at Safety Compass, I work directly with survivors, law enforcement agencies, and community partners to provide immediate crisis intervention, advocacy, and long-term support. The funding provided through HB 5005 is critical in advancing this work.

By investing in the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, we strengthen the collaboration between law enforcement and victim service organizations like Safety Compass. Effective anti-trafficking efforts require a multidisciplinary approach, where trained officers, prosecutors, and victim advocates work together to identify victims, dismantle trafficking networks, and hold perpetrators accountable. These funds allow us to train law enforcement on trauma-informed investigative techniques, ensuring that survivors receive compassionate and effective responses when they reach out for help.

Moreover, this funding expands our ability to provide direct services to survivors. Many individuals we serve have endured severe trauma, isolation, and financial control at the hands of traffickers. With additional resources, we can connect more survivors to safe housing, legal aid, healthcare, and job training programs, setting them on the path toward independence and healing. Without stable funding, these critical services remain limited, leaving many victims vulnerable to re-exploitation.

Another key aspect of HB 5005 is its role in strengthening our outreach and education and awareness efforts. Labor trafficking thrives in the shadows, and many victims are unaware that help is available. Through this funding, we can expand our awareness campaigns, engage with at-risk communities, and create stronger reporting mechanisms to bring more cases to light. Every survivor who is identified and supported represents a victory against this egregious crime.

The impact of this work cannot be overstated. I have personally witnessed the transformation that occurs when a labor trafficking survivor receives the support they need. I have seen individuals who once lived in fear and exploitation reclaim their dignity, find stable employment, and reunite with their families. These success stories are made possible through sustained investments in anti-trafficking initiatives, such as those supported by HB 5005.

I urge this committee to prioritize the funding allocated to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission through HB 5005. This bill is not just about numbers—it is about people. It is about ensuring that law enforcement has the tools to investigate labor

trafficking cases effectively, that survivors receive the support they need, and that Oregon continues to lead in the fight against human trafficking.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have and look forward to continuing this vital work alongside you.

Sincerely,

Jamil Kassab

Director of Labor Trafficking

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