



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Testimony in Support of HB 4146, requiring expungement of juvenile records for contact involving prostitution when subject was under 18 years of age at time of offense without waiting period and, if no objection is filed, without hearing; referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Co-Chairs Barker and Krieger; Co-Vice Chairs Garrett and Hicks; Representatives Nolan, Olson, Schaufler, Tomei, Wand, and Whisnant.

The Oregon Commission for Women, in its role of advocate for the women of Oregon, strongly supports HB 4146.

Under Federal law, sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age, (22 USC § 7102; 8 CFR § 214.11(a)).

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. Very young girls are duped and in many cases kidnapped into sexual slavery. The average age of entry into the commercial sex market in the United States is between 12 and 14 years old.

The organizations that traffic these girls impose nightly quotas of \$200 to \$1000 per girl, or an average of seven to fifteen “clients” per night, and rely on methods of control including rape, other physical abuse, debt bondage, threats of force, and threats to family (including children).

When a girl succeeds in escaping from the control of those who have trafficked her, she often finds that her prostitution convictions act as obstacles to her retaking control of her life and becoming a full member of society. HB 4146 will allow these young women, upon reaching the age of majority, to expunge the criminal records they incurred during a period when they themselves were the victims of an ongoing crime. The bill contains adequate safeguards in the event the applicant has an ongoing criminal record or the affected district attorney(s) wish(es) to contest the expungement application, and it allows these young women to build constructive adult lives.

Please vote Aye on HB 4146.

Sincerely,

Sunny Petit, Chair  
Oregon Commission for Women

Jenny Greenleaf, Vice Chair  
Oregon Commission for Women

Stephanie Vardavas  
Oregon Commission for Women

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