March 25, 2013

Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
900 Court St. NE, Room 331
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 2019

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

We are writing to express our support for House Bill 2019, legislation that will support victims of juvenile sex trafficking while increasing penalties to deter sex trafficking offenders.

The City of Portland is committed to addressing human sex trafficking, a criminal enterprise that has a disproportionate impact on children. In recent years, the City has authorized funding for human sex trafficking victims advocates, emergency shelter beds for victims, and additional housing for adult victims of human trafficking. In 2011, the City hosted an I-5 Corridor Public Safety Summit that brought together mayors and public safety officials from communities across Oregon, as well as from Washington State and Vancouver, B.C., to share experiences and tactics related to human sex trafficking.

House Bill 2019 is the next step for deterring criminal sex traffickers because it increases penalties, gives prosecutors additional tools to go after sex traffickers, and it specifically creates the crime of "Patronizing a Trafficked Child." This legislation helps victims by giving them the ability to seek restitution from convicted offenders, offers them the protection of Oregon's rape shield law, and allows them to be compensated for medical bills through the state's crime victim compensation fund.

As we continue to combat human sex trafficking, we view House Bill 2019 as a necessary next step to protect juveniles and crack down on those that abuse them. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner