

SARA GELSER
STATE SENATOR
District 8



OREGON STATE SENATE

February 1, 2016

RE: Support for HB 4082

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

It is a privilege to support HB 4082, and the ongoing efforts by Representative Taylor, Representative Huffman and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Workgroup.

Current law is not sufficient to address all of the circumstances faced by children who are forced into the sex trade. This is because the crime of Promoting Prostitution can be proven when an individual receives money or property that has been obtained in exchange for prostitution. In many cases, what is exchanged or promised is something that does not have a tangible value. This fails to account for a variety of transactions that perpetuate the problem of child sex trafficking. HB 4082 closes this loophole by ensuring that the crime includes the exchange of anything else of value—including good and services.

HB 4082 does not change the penalty for promoting prostitution, which remains a Class C felony. It simply aligns the definition of the crime more closely with the way we understand the crime is working out in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 4082, and I urge its passage.

Sincerely,

Sara Gelser

