

My name is Maddy Taylor and I am a resident of Portland, Oregon and I am writing in full support for the passage of SB 596.

I have spent most of my professional life working with survivors of domestic, sexual, and trafficking violence. Many of the people who I have worked with throughout the years have been engaged in the trade and sale of sex. Some have had third party exploiters and some have not.

People who are engaged in the sale of sex routinely face violence and threats of violence from clients and intimate partners due to the stigma and criminalization surrounding the sex trades.

People who choose to commit assaults and other violent crimes do so with the full knowledge that options for safety are limited when their victims face arrest and prosecution for coming forward as victims of crime. To deny people access to the resources necessary to increase their safety empowers both predators and traffickers to continue in their abuse.

I know that this legislation will help many vulnerable people to access increased services and resources, which is what every survivor of a violent crime deserves.