

To: Chair Prozanski

Vice-Chair Thatcher

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot 110 Ballot Measure
Implementation

From: Joyclyn Bell, Intergenerational Survivor, Systems Impacted Advocate

RE: SB 274: Protections for Sex Trafficked Minors

I extend my greatest appreciation as you review my testimony in support of SB 274: a bill that will **remove the criminalization of sexually exploited youth in Oregon.**

1. Our laws as they stand today further traumatize and commodify sexually exploited youth in Oregon
2. Children/Youth who are sexually exploited should NOT have law enforcement or experience the youth carceral system as a result of their exploitation; as first responders or for lack of a trauma informed, survivor led, holistic placement
3. Research shows that the use of sexually exploited children/youth for the purpose of prosecution does not result in higher conviction rates of the exploiter or the prevention of the child/youth's recidivism
4. Referencing sexually exploited children/youth as prostitutes further marginalizes this population who aren't legally responsible for their exploitation
5. Parents/Caregivers of sexually exploited children/youth should not be penalized as a result of the exploitation that is rooted in this countries exploitation of Indigenous and African peoples for capitalism.
6. The equitable method in creating change is through participatory research and accountability that is survivor led and reaches everyone who can/will come in contact with a sexually exploited child/youth
7. SB 274 is the beginning of the development of a multi-disciplinary approach to a complex problem that disproportionately impacts child/youth of color (BIPOC) and those that identify as LGBTQ+

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