

Trafficking Law Center

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February 7, 2024

TO: House Judiciary Committee

RE: Written testimony of Joel Shapiro, Executive Director of the Trafficking Law Center,
in support of HB 4146

Chair Kropf and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

As the Executive Director of the Trafficking Law Center (TLC), I submit this written testimony to express our strong support for HB 4146. TLC works to support human trafficking victims and survivors by connecting them with *pro bono* legal representation, training attorneys, and educating the public and policymakers on issues related to human trafficking.

HB 4146 would benefit sex trafficking victims, as well as many other victims of gender-based violence and sexual offenses, and other violations of privacy. TLC supports Sections 1 – 3 of the bill, which allow greater flexibility as to the location where a restraining order may be filed. Victims of human trafficking often experience violence not only where they reside but also in other counties where they are compelled to work. Latitude in where to file for a protective order is a sensible and logical change.

Section 4 of the bill would enact a significant and much-needed policy reform. Removing the term “identifiable” as a requisite component in determining the intimate images that are subject to criminal sanction for unlawful dissemination is an important reform to protect the rights of victims of revenge porn. This crime is both devastating and all too prevalent.

Oregon’s statutes should be updated to reflect the reality that a victim can suffer great humiliation and emotional harm even if they cannot be conclusively identified beyond a reasonable doubt in images that are disseminated. The fear of intimate images dissemination is particularly acute, and is a highly likely occurrence, for sex trafficking victims, whose intimate images are used in sexual solicitation ads which are widely disseminated online by their traffickers.

The Trafficking Law Center urges the House Judiciary Committee to approve HB 4146 and send it to the House floor with a do-pass recommendation.