

Submitter: Misty Hill
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

Testimony on HB2548 and Oregon's Failure to Address Human Trafficking and Exploitation

Dear Members of the Committee,

I come before you today as a victim of human trafficking and a witness to the failures of our state's response to this crisis. My testimony is not just for me, but for every person who has suffered and continues to suffer in silence.

Inaction of Oregon's Government

Despite existing laws meant to protect individuals from trafficking, my case shows that these laws are not being enforced. The business through which I was trafficked continues to operate, and the state of Oregon profits from it by collecting taxes. This raises the question: How can Oregon be trusted to pass new laws when it has failed to enforce the ones already in place?

Profiting from Human Trafficking

Oregon is financially benefiting from trafficking through businesses involved in exploitation. Despite clear evidence of trafficking and criminal activity, state agencies have failed to take action. This systemic failure allows businesses to thrive while victims like me continue to suffer.

Lack of Accountability

Law enforcement and the IRS have ignored my reports of trafficking and the profits from it. This betrayal undermines the public's trust and further enables illegal activities. Until the state proves its ability to hold traffickers accountable, I have little faith in any new laws.

The Need for Transparency and Action

We need transparency from our government and real action in enforcing current laws. The state must prove it can protect its citizens before passing any new laws. If the current system fails to uphold justice, new laws will be just as ineffective.

The Impact on Victims

Failure to enforce laws harms vulnerable individuals and sends a message that victims' lives do not matter. We cannot allow this injustice to persist. If Oregon is serious about combating human trafficking, it must first prove it can uphold existing

laws.

Scriptural Foundation

As a person of faith, I turn to the words in Isaiah 1:23 and Micah 3:9-10, which call for justice, accountability, and the protection of the vulnerable. I believe God calls us to stand up for those who cannot speak for themselves and to demand justice for the oppressed.

Conclusion

How can Oregon be trusted to create and enforce new laws when it has failed to uphold the ones already in place? I implore you to take action, not just for me, but for all victims of trafficking. It is time to hold Oregon accountable for its failures and ensure no more lives are destroyed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

“The human trafficking case associated with my identity is case number #1532850. Since I first reported it in 2019, Oregon has been profiting from my trafficked identity.”

Sincerely,

Misty Hill

Defender of Truth & Justice

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