

TO: House Committee on Judiciary  
FROM: Claire Vogelsang, Safety Compass  
DATE: March 26, 2025  
RE: Support for HB 3819



Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 3819, a critical step in addressing the alarming rise of human trafficking within illicit massage businesses (IMBs). My name is Claire Vogelsang, and I have dedicated the past several years to advocating for survivors as the Marion and Washington County Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator with Safety Compass. Safety Compass exists to provide confidential advocacy and navigational support for survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation up to the age of 25. Our team responds 24/7 to crisis calls from law enforcement, child welfare, juvenile justice, and hospitals, standing alongside survivors as they navigate their path to safety.

Human trafficking in massage businesses is the second most common type of trafficking reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and the scope of this crisis is staggering. As of 2023, The Network, an anti-human trafficking data collection nonprofit, estimates that over 13,000 IMBs operate across all 50 states, generating more than \$5 billion annually in illicit revenue. In Oregon alone, there are now over 300 IMBs—an unfathomable 477% increase since 2019 and a 36% jump in just the last year. This explosive growth is not happening in the shadows; it is taking place in our own neighborhoods, hidden behind storefronts labeled as "reflexology" businesses that face little to no oversight.

The reality inside these establishments is horrifying. Women, primarily Mandarin-speaking, are lured in under false pretenses, only to find themselves trapped—enslaved by fear, isolation, coercion, and crushing debt bondage. These operations are not small, isolated crimes; they are part of highly organized criminal enterprises driven by the demand of American men seeking sexual access to Asian

women. Behind the doors of these businesses, the signs of trafficking are unmistakable—table showers, hidden caches of condoms, bleach baths for soiled towels. The women, whom we know to be victims, are living on-site, forced to work seven days a week, often providing sexual services to an average of ten buyers per day. Many report being moved between locations monthly, further severing any chance of escape or outside intervention. Disturbingly, even some buyers—men engaging in illegal transactions—have reached out to Safety Compass after recognizing the horrific conditions these women endure.

IMBs do more than exploit the vulnerable—they serve as a financial engine for organized crime. Through our work with law enforcement, we know these businesses launder money from other criminal enterprises, including illegal marijuana operations. Most of this illicit revenue is funneled overseas, into networks spanning China and Mexico, making it even more difficult to dismantle these operations. Law enforcement has shut down individual IMBs time and time again, only for new locations to appear almost immediately, and for victims to be swiftly relocated, reinforcing the urgency for systemic change.

HB 3819 is a necessary and long-overdue measure to address both the supply and demand that fuel human trafficking in Oregon. By strengthening regulations and enforcement, we have an opportunity to disrupt these criminal networks, protect victims, and ensure that our communities are no longer a haven for exploitation. I urge you to pass this bill and take a stand against the trafficking crisis that has taken root in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.