



Oregon Alliance to End Gender-Based Violence



February 9th, 2026

Support for HB 4157 – Hearsay Exception in Human Trafficking Cases

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallan and Chotzen, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4157 on behalf of the Oregon Alliance to End Gender Based Violence. Founded in 1999, the Alliance is a statewide grassroots network of survivors, advocates, and programs serving survivors across the state. The Alliance is dedicated to promoting legislation in Oregon that will protect and empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Thank you to Representative Tran for bringing this bill forward.

Human trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to an estimated 24.9 million people worldwide. Trafficking is prevalent across the state of Oregon, both along the I-5 corridor and in more remote areas of the state. Trafficked survivors often endure severe physical violence, sexual abuse, forced labor, and deprivation of basic needs, resulting in profound physical, psychological, and emotional trauma. Traffickers maintain control through fear, emotional manipulation, isolation, and intimidation, often disappearing victims or threatening retaliation to prevent them from testifying in court.

Passage of HB 4157 will help to correct this imbalance of power, by providing a tool to facilitate holding perpetrators accountable. The bill will allow a survivor's statement—made with sufficient indicia of reliability to trained professionals or recorded close in time to the abuse—to be considered in court, even if the testimony is delivered by someone other than the survivor themselves. Passage of the bill will help to ensure that perpetrators will not be rewarded by impunity as a result of intimidation tactics to prevent a survivor from testifying.

HB 4157 mirrors a rule that already applies in domestic violence cases in Oregon. This rule should be expanded to cover trafficking cases, to help hold perpetrators accountable for violence crime, and to reduce trafficking in the state of Oregon. We urge your support.