

Submitter: Marchel Kaleikini
On Behalf Of: Sex Worker Affirming Advocates
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4157

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallen, Chotzen, and members of the committee,

My name is Marchel Kaleikini with Sex Worker Affirming Advocates (SWAA), dedicated to advancing labor rights and safety for those in the adult entertainment industry. I urge you to vote no for HB 4157 as currently written.

SWAA recognizes that all sex workers are vulnerable to mistreatment and violence, but BIPOC sex workers, sex workers who identify as a gender minority (i.e. trans, gender non-binary or gender-expansive), and full-service sex workers are at a higher level of risk of abuse, violence, and death.

While we appreciate the intent to address trafficking concerns, this bill was developed without any meaningful consultation with sex worker-led organizations and carries significant risks for consensual sex workers.

My colleagues have shared the details to our opposition at this time:

This expansion of prosecutorial discretion lacks necessary guardrails in a system that already applies discretion inequitably.

The inclusion of "Promoting Prostitution" being particularly problematic. This charge criminalizes anyone who assists in prostitution—including drivers, safe contacts, family members, or other sex workers. Unlike compelling prostitution, promoting prostitution doesn't require force, fraud, or coercion. Including it in this hearsay exception will further isolate sex workers and increase their risk by criminalizing their support networks.

There was not meaningful engagement with BIPOC sex worker led organizations before advancing any legislation affecting our communities.

I want to take a moment to honor my friend Susie Jane. Susie was a mother, daughter, sister, and part of the sex worker community. In 2021 she was prosecuted and was found guilty of prostitution. This created a target on her back and for protection stopped sharing travel and related information to create her own safe guards within her network. My friend Susie was murdered when traveling to Chicago by a customer in a hotel room, leaving behind her two children. While I can appreciate the intent, there are very serious implications for consensual sex workers that are life or death. There is nuance between being seen as a victim and seen as a criminal.

In 2023 we worked really hard to build relationships in this building where we already invisibilized and by many, looked down on. There are many trans, black, sex workers who are killed and never uplifted as well as missing and murdered Indigenous women who do not get the appropriate funding or platforms to look for them. Through former Senator Steiner we had a budget note for \$600,000 that the legislature passed to study the effects of criminalization. The governor vetoed it saying it should be privately funded. Thanks to the honorable Carol Leigh Trust Foundation, SWAA will be sharing out a survey to sex workers in Oregon through the summer in 2026. And the Oregon Sex Worker Committee just released it's legal mapping project findings that directly address policy changes like this.

It is clear that a voice that should be at the table was not and we can continue this conversation to bring back in the long session.

Respectfully submitted,
Marchel Kaleikini