

WHEREAS, workers engaged in prostitution (“sex workers”) and victims of human trafficking suffer extremely high rates of crime¹;

WHEREAS, the risk of legal retaliation for engaging in prostitution discourages sex workers and victims of human trafficking from reporting crime victimization to law enforcement and seeking medical services, leaving them vulnerable to violence and exploitation;

WHEREAS, the resulting violence and exploitation of sex workers and victims of human trafficking at the hands of clients, associates, and police has a disparate impact on already vulnerable individuals such as those who are poor, women, transgender, people of color, formerly incarcerated, or immigrants lacking authorized status; and

WHEREAS, SB 596 "provides that if person reports commission of person felony to emergency communications system or law enforcement agency, evidence of prostitution obtained as result of making report may not be used against person in prosecution for prostitution or attempted prostitution"²;

THEREFORE, we the Washington County Democratic Central Committee (WCDCC), support and endorse the passage of Oregon SB 596.

Resolution submitted by Laura Wadlin, R&PC Member – March 16, 2019

Resolution amended and recommended Do Pass as Emergency by RPC – April 5, 2019

¹ https://www.huffingtonpost.com/katherine-koster/16-facts-about-sexual-ass_b_8711720.html

² <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Measures/Overview/SB596>