



October 2, 2019

Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Bill 23-0318, the "*Community Safety and Health Amendment Act of 2019*"

Dear Councilmember:

We, the undersigned survivors of the sex trade, have collectively experienced hundreds of years of abuse, violence, objectification, and dehumanization in the sex trade. We know first-hand that prostitution is not a victimless crime and that most individuals involved in the sex trade are not there voluntarily and have experienced long term harm as a result of being bought and sold. **We STRONGLY OPPOSE pending legislation to FULLY Decriminalize the entire sex trade in DC, the *Community Safety and Health Amendment Act of 2019*.**

This legislation decriminalizes the sex industry in DC, including sex buying, acts of pimping/procurement, and brothel owning. This measure will increase violence against women and children, regardless of their involvement in the sex trade, while greatly increasing instances of sex trafficking in the District.

Our voices **MUST** be heard in this discussion because we have lived the harm you want to make legal.

We support the decriminalization of people directly selling sex in prostitution. No one being prostituted in the sex trade should be arrested for prostitution regardless of whether trafficked or not. But Sex Buying/Patronizing, Pimping/Procurement, and Brothel Owning **MUST** remain illegal. That combination of laws is known as the Equality Model.

D.C.-based Courtney's House is the only African American-led, survivor-led program serving male and female survivors ages 9-24 from Wards 1, 7 and 8. They report that virtually 100% of their survivors are found in houses or makeshift brothels and that 30% of their youth are trafficked by their families, sold out of their own homes. Given this devastating reality, we are horrified by the proposal to decriminalize informal brothels throughout the District. This, paired

with the decriminalization of sex-buying, would surely fuel the trafficking and exploitation of countless other vulnerable groups.

We reject a society that leaves those exploited with hopelessness.

Policy should never be built on the backs of those enslaved, sending the message that it is acceptable to use their humanity for the pleasure of anyone with money because a privileged few decide to sell sex once they are adults and have options.

We stand with the DC survivor community in urging you to reject this harmful legislation. Our hope is that you will hear the voices of survivors in the District and beyond who have repeatedly said that prostitution is not empowering, it instead enables racial and gendered violence. Survivors across the nation are watching DC and counting on you.

Our Collective Voice Matters, Your Vote MUST BE NO.

Respectfully,

Rev. Dr. Marian Hatcher,

Survivor Leader, SPACE International U.S.A.-Member
Ambassador-At-Large, United Nations

A. D.

AA Copeland

Abbey Brooks-Derzay

Adriana Sanchez

AL

Alexandra (Sandi) Pierce

Alice

Alicia A Cohen

Alisa Bernard

Allison Franklin

Alyssa Romero

AM

Amelia West

Amy Andrews

Amy Engle

Amy Smith

Angela Pratt

Annie Lobert

April Baker

As

Franciscan Peacemakers and the National Survivor Network

Girls Educational and Mentoring Services

RAHAB

Othayonih Research

CEO Sister Survivors, Advocate Neighborhood Legal Services, Author

SAFE, Survivors United, Survivor Alliance, National Survivor Network

The Organization for Prostitution Survivors

Texas Criminal Justice Coalition

Free Our Girls

My Life My Choice

Sister Survivors and Neighborhood Legal Services

Survivors Consultation Network

Streetlight USA

Free Outreach

Hookers For Jesus

Aubree Alles	She Counts
Audra Doody	Living in Freedom Together, INC
Autumn Burris	Survivors for Solutions
Barbara Amaya	BASMARTGIRL
Barbie Robinson	Rfw
Beth Jacobs	Truckers Against Trafficking
BLS	Catholic Charities DIGNITY
Bree	Free Our Girls/ Sparrows Landing
Brenda Myers Powell	The Dreamcatcher foundation Executive director
Brenda Stewart	The Dreamcatcher Foundation/McDermott Haymarket Center
Brigette Robarge	Michigan Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board
Brook Bello	More Too Life
C.H.	Survivor Leader
C.M.	
CAA	Survivors of the Sex Trade
Carissa Phelps	Runaway Girl, Inc.
Chasity Rainwater	Redeemed Ministries
Cheri Crider	Amirah, Inc.
Cherie Jimenez	EVA Center
Cheryl Ross	A_-21 out of charlotte nc
Christine Cesa	Survivor Advocate
Christine Stark	Author
CLT	Into the Jordan Ministries
Constance Rose	Victims2Survivors and Connie Rose Consulting
CPM	
CS	Veronica's Voice
CT	Generate Hope
Darian Roberts	Darkness Revealed
Darlene Pawlik	Darling Princess
Debra Rush	Breaking the Chains
Delores Day	Restore Innocence Ranch
Desiree Trail	Central Va Justice Initiative
Diana Cisneros	Child Family Policy Institute of California
DS	Resilient Voices & Survivor 2 Survivor (S2S)
Elizabeth Johnstone	Living in freedom together
Elle Snow	Bauer and Phelps Law
Emily Hollerbach	Ending the Game
Emmy myers	Lacey's Hope Project
Eric Harris	Itvap. Indiana trafficking victim's assistance program consultant/ lived experience speaker
Erik Gray	Innovations Human Trafficking Collaborative, Queers Uniting to End Exploitation
Erin Wright	SHE Survivors for Hope by Empowerment
FH	

Gabriela Lozano	
Gina C	
Gina Salazar	Asian associations of utah
Hannah B	
Harmony Grillo	Treasures
Hazel Fasthorse	Human Trafficking Specialist
HH	
Iain Martin	
J. C.	Not
Jacqueline Homan	Codecatenation, LLC
Jacquelynn Loos	Community Advocate Supervisor-REST, Co-Founder/Trainer-QUEE
Jade Richard	PDC
Janine Montgomery	Youth Trust Project
Jasmine Grace Marino	Bags of Hope Ministries
JB	2nd Chance Ministries
JB	CORRC
Jeanette Westbrook (MSSW)	SPACE International
Jennifer Tucker	Esteem Outreach/Life Center Tacoma
Jeri Moomaw	Innovations Human Trafficking Collaborative
Jerome Elam	CEO and President Trafficking in America Task Force
Jessica Frazier	Straight Street Life Center Inc
Jessica Kay Halling	St. Jude's Ranch for Children
Jessica L. Kim	Survivor Advocate
Jessica Sobolesky	Child kidnapping, trafficking and prosecution survivor
Jessika S	Survivor
Jewell Baraka	
JHP	
JM	
John Price	
Jolene Hollis	
Josephine Feemster	Advocate
Joy	Survivor
JS	
Julia Anderson	Survivor Leader; #iCan Project
Julie Shematz	Beauty From Ashesâ„¸ Ministries
Kathi Hardy	Freedom From Exploitation, Inc.
Kathleen Mitchell	Founder DIGNITY Programs Phoenix AZ
Kathryn Wehunt	The Formation Project
Kathy Bryan	Rebecca Bender Initiative
Katrina Taylor	EPI
Kayti Batya	Street Grace
KB	Beautiful and Loved
Kelli Smith	HopeWorks

Kelly Dore	NHTSC
Kelly Patterson	
Kimberly Lovett	Breakingfree
Kimberly Mull	Kimberly Mull Advocacy & Consulting
Kirsten O'Hanlon	Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)
Kristen Tebow	Youth Trust Project
Kristina Jackson	Breaking Free
Kristy Childs	Veronica's Voice
Kylee Gregg	
Laura Wakeman	Survivor Network of those Abused by Priests
Laurin Crosson	Rockstarr Organization
Leslie King	Sacred Beginnings
LG	
Linda Ellen	
Lindsey Hass	South Carolina human trafficking task force
Lisa Hughes	
Lisa L. Pous	Central Texas DMST Coalition, Central Texas Coalition,zero SurvivorsGEMs and RBI
Lorena Spencer	
LP	Polaris
LP	Breaking Free
LS	NSN, The Hope Project
LS	
LuAnn Goodyear	Free Our Girls and Extended Hands of Hope
Lucy Bloom	Veronica's Voice
Lynne Stevens	Breaking Free
Marjorie Saylor	Survivor Leader Network of San Diego
Marlene Carson	The Switch Anti Trafficking Network
Mary Knight	
Megan Lundstrom	Free Our Girls
Melanie Thompson	Coalition Against Trafficking in Women
Melinda Starrett	Florida Baptist Children's Homes
Melody Soto	
Michelle Gasper	Living in Freedom together
Mindy Best	Survivor-Elevate Academy
Misty Mckinney	
MMG	
Mw	Freedom place
Nichole Burrell	
Nicole Bell	Living In Freedom Together Inc
Nicole Niblett	
Noel Gomez	Organization for Prostitution Survivors
Patricia Haven	Triumph Ministries

Penny Adrian	none
PMP	
Poppy Romero	Rebecca Bender Elevate Academy
Rachel Lloyd	GEMS
Rachel Niemiec	
Rachel Pointer	Independent Anti-trafficking Consultant
RachelAnn Baltazar	Girls Educational and Mentoring Services
Raquel Piscopo	Terry's House
Rebecca Bender	Rebecca Bender Initiative
Rebekah Charleston	Valiant Hearts
Rev. Dr. Marian Hatcher	SPACE International-USA
RG	1985
Robin levasseur	NECAT
Robin Miller	Survivor/Advocate
RT	
Ruth Rondon	Michigan Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board
Samantha Hardy	Bayside Christian Church
Sara Smith	
Sarah Z	COURTNEYS HOUSE AND POLARIS PROJECT
Sarah Zalonis	Courtney's House and Polaris
Shamere McKenzie	Sun Gate Foundation
Shandra Woworuntu	Mentari
Shanna Parker	Angels Go To Work
Shannon Martinez	shannonspeaks.org
Shawnee Love HHD, PhD	Purple Hearts Missions Possible & Healthy Horizons; Native American Warriorz Task Force
Sheri Lopez	You Can't Groom Me (nonprofit)
Sherry Dooley	GEMS
SML	
SS	S.H.A.D.E Movement
Stephanie Free	none
Stephanie Stansberry	
Summer Carter	Survivor
Susan Munsey	Generatehope
T.A.P.	Street Outreach to Youth
Tamara Roberson	
Tammy Bitanga	Ho'ē»Å¸la NÄ¸ Pua
Tanya Street	
Telisia Espinosa	Be A Voice, Catch the Wave of Hope
Teresa Forliti	Breaking Free
Teresa Meitl	Past
Teresa Tally	RBI
Theresa Flores	The SOAP Project

Tia-janae Johnson	Fierce Freedom
Tiffany Vazquez	Girls Educational and Mentoring Services
Tina Dixon	Hookers for Jesus
Tina Frundt	Courtney's House
Tom Jones	The H.O.P.E. Project (Healing, Outreach and Peer Empowerment)
Toni Lucas	
Toshia H	CleanUP HT / SOAP Project
Trevor Masani	
TS	
Twana Lucas	Restoration61
Valerie Addy	U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking
Vednita Carter	Breaking Free (Past)
Virginia Lawrence	
Vp	Clest
Willow Kennedy	
Winnie Lazenko	4her North Dakota
Yvonne Hubbell	Shared Hope International

[Disclaimer: Initials are accepted for survivor safety]