

ATTN: Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members
of the judiciary committee,1435

My name is Casey Bernardini I am 34 In 2015 I was a victim
in a federal sex trafficking ring, and then after a witness. My
trafficker took a deal and was sentenced to 30 years for
multiple counts of trafficking across state line and trafficking of
minors. But I also was a victim in a more recent crime of sexual
exploitation and sex trafficking in 2023.Both of these cases
were just as horrendous. In both cases I was subject to physical
abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse, but these 2 cases
were handled very differently. Which Is why I ask you to
support LD 1435 and LD 1436.

I believe law enforcement has a very important job and a very crucial job of handling situations that involve women of sexual exploitation and woman who have been trafficked. If a woman is degraded, if a woman is disrespected, if a woman feels like she is not heard or believed, the state of Maine will lose vital witnesses, vital to sentencing traffickers to prison. I also ask you to support the repeal of the crime of engaging in prostitution (those who are sold are no longer arrested but given services.) I recognize the South Portland Police Department for the way they handled my situation.

In LD 1436 I, along with so many other women ask for survivors, to be able to seal prostitution records. People have asked me what was the worst part physical or emotional? I tell them the healing. I can control panic attacks, there is medicine for my PTSD, there is therapy for my flashbacks. But I cannot

control the charge on my record. A charge that affects housing, higher education, jobs and careers, my child's fieldtrips? I can not control language used to describe that exact opposite of the human I am. But, yet language does affect my life every day. I ask you whether democrat, republican, father, mother to see me as human. To see that I have been through enough abuse. Please support LD 1436 I ask you you, today April 11, 2023, to support this bill. This will be the type of change our children will read about, like Rosa Parks or women's rights, please be the first in the State of Maine. Please make history. Please have conviction, instead of supporting the conviction

Thank you,

Casey Bernardini