

Testimony Regarding LD 2168: An Act to Increase Accountability for Persons Engaged in Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking and to Support Victims

To: Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Judiciary

My name is Nathan Amadon, and I am writing to you today to share my concerns regarding **LD 2168**. I want to begin by saying I truly appreciate the sponsors' goal of reducing violence and supporting survivors. As a survivor of sexual abuse myself, I care deeply about these issues. However, because of my personal history and my close relationships with people who have engaged in various forms of sex work. Whether it be escorting, street work, digital work or other forms. These includes those who have done so by preference and by choice. But also many who have been trafficked, coerced or for survival. I'm also one of the 1 in 3 Americans, who have experienced some form of sexual abuse in their lifetime. For these and other reasons, I believe this bill, as written, will unintentionally make vulnerable people less safe.

My primary concern is that this bill lumps together adult consensual sex work. With the coercive exploitation and violent abuse of women and children - into a single enforcement framework. Conflating these issues is not just a matter of legal definitions; it is harmful with very real life consequences. In my experience, the people who cause the most harm to children and sex workers are often those with the most power and financial resources. Increasing financial penalties for buyers doesn't make the risk go away; it simply displaces it onto the worker. When buyers face higher risks, they push workers into more isolation, riskier transactions and more pressure from those who are or will harm them. This makes it much harder to identify actual trafficking and leaves my friends and loved ones at a higher risk of violence.

Furthermore, Maine has already established a unique legal framework for these issues that has not yet been fully evaluated. We should not be layering new, punitive assessments onto an untested system. I believe sex between consenting adults should not be a crime, and while I know that is a complex conversation, we must ensure that any steps we take do not further alienate or stigmatize those at risk. I urge the committee to wait for evidence that our current laws are working and to prioritize the voices of those directly impacted before passing new regulations that may only contribute to their suffering.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to the safety of all Maine citizens.

Respectfully,

Nathan Amadon

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LD 2168

Attached is a re-submission. My previous submission included the wrong document.