



February 03, 2026

Opposition to LD2168

To Chairs Carney, Kuhn and to the Maine Judiciary Committee,

My name is Maia Onikoroshi. I submit this testimony in opposition to LD2168: **An Act to Increase Accountability for Persons Engaged in Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking and to Support Victims**, as co-chair of the Boston Sex Workers and Allies Collective. We are a group of Boston area volunteers running a peer operated monthly support group for adult consensual sex workers. I have worked as a professional dominatrix over the last eight years of my life and I love my work.

While this bill is well intentioned, it makes us less safe. Peer reviewed research from around the globe shows that policies of criminalization increase isolation and violence, reduce reporting, and increase the difficulty of identifying human trafficking. Buyers facing increased pressure simply push adult consensual sex workers further into unsafe working conditions. Those buyers are less likely to comply with our safety screening as they fear state repercussion under a policy of heightened buyer criminalization.

Adult consensual sex workers in Massachusetts live under fear of arrest. Criminalization puts adult consensual sex workers like myself in danger and forces us to conduct our work underground. Criminalization prevents us from reporting violent crimes against us to the police. Treating all sexual labor as exploitation serves to increase fear of seeking help for those in real situations of human trafficking which then reduces disclosure, making it harder to identify actual cases of coercion.

Human rights and public health organizations including the ACLU, the World Health Organization, UNAIDS, the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Freedom Network recommend the decriminalization of adult consensual sex work to reduce violence and improve public health outcomes.

As your regional neighbors, consensual adult sex workers in Massachusetts look to Maine as a leader on extending labor rights protections to vulnerable laborers such as ourselves. Please do not support LD2168 and thank you for reading.

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