

Lamica's Testimony

This is a statement in support of the Equality Model Act.

To the members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Council:

My name is Lamica Davis, and I am a survivor of prostitution and sex trafficking. I am currently residing at Jana's Place, which is a program for survivors to exit the life of prostitution and substance abuse. Ever since I was 14 years old, I have had a pimp who coerced me into sex trafficking and kept me away from my family. For ten years, my trafficker had me change my name and live in and out of hotels in multiple states. During this time, I was exposed to abuse by him, sex buyers, and, unfortunately, the police. Additionally, I abused drugs to dissociate from my life in sex trafficking. So, even when my trafficker went to jail, I continued to trade sex for necessities such as food, a place to live, and the drugs which I used to cope. I was in and out of programs, but never really focused on my trauma until I came to Jana's Place. Here, I am able to focus on my trauma and substance use. Today I have one year clean and exited out of the life. This is why I feel like the Equality Model is important. It will help fund more exit programs, no longer criminalize prostitution and expunge the criminal records of survivors, and hold buyers and traffickers accountable.