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Oregon House Takes Action Against Labor Exploitation Associated with Unlawful Marijuana Grows

HB 4074 will aid vulnerable workers and support the response to illegal activity

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Oregon House passed a bill to address worker mistreatment and labor trafficking associated with illegal cannabis cultivation and distribution. [House Bill 4074 B](#) will provide \$6 million in grant funding to community-based organizations responding to humanitarian concerns at illegal marijuana operations.

“I have been deeply troubled by the illegal activity we have seen in my community. We’ve heard about people living and working in desperate conditions without protection or safety measures,” said [Rep. Pam Marsh](#) (D-Southern Jackson County). “This legislation provides critical funding to help our communities begin to understand and address the humanitarian crisis unfolding in front of us.”

The funding will allow local organizations to provide services such as translation, housing and legal support to vulnerable workers. Workers and law enforcement have reported significant worker safety issues at illegal grows, including violence, threats, stolen wages and unsafe living and working conditions.

The bill also requires marijuana industry workers to report to the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commissioner (OLCC) or law enforcement if they have a reasonable belief that sex trafficking, human trafficking, or the prohibited employment of a minor is occurring on the licensed premises.

During the 2021 Third Special Session, the legislature allocated \$25 million to combat illegal marijuana activity in Oregon, including funding to help local governments with costs related to enforcement.

The bill passed the House 59-0 and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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