



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 17th, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on [HB 3819 A](#)

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I want to begin by saying that I deeply appreciate the work and intent that went into [HB 3819 A](#) and the Amendments brought forward in an attempt to mitigate some of the unintended consequences of the bill. Protecting vulnerable workers from labor and sex trafficking is an honorable goal that I support wholeheartedly. Human trafficking is something I deeply oppose and will never condone.

However well intentioned this bill may be, I have made the difficult decision to be a “no” vote today on the Floor. Below are my concerns should this legislation pass and become law. Above all else, we must listen to the voices of those who would be most impacted by this legislation. My office has heard from advocates representing small Chinese owned businesses that have grave concerns that this bill, even accounting for well intentioned amendments, could unintentionally lead to discrimination, racial profiling, and violence against workers and business owners.

1. HB 3819 A would further criminalize immigrant and refugee communities, who are already at extreme risk.
2. Increased penalties, up to felony-level charges for multiple offenses, for certain unlicensed activities within massage and reflexology professions puts undue burden on small business owners who are already struggling to navigate a punitive and complicated system. Many of the individuals in these industries are immigrants, non-native English speakers, and survivors of economic hardship, operating within systems that are often inaccessible and confusing. This bill criminalizes those navigating barriers instead of supporting them.”



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3. There is a long history of racialized and violent policing targeting Asian-owned massage businesses.
4. Historically, Asian massage workers, especially women, have faced disproportionate surveillance, police stings, and public shaming<sup>1</sup>. This bill resurrects that harmful pattern by authorizing placards and felony charges, without addressing root causes or implementing protections for workers.
5. If our goal is to protect public safety and reduce harm, then we must hold systems, not just individuals accountable. HB 3819 A increases punishment without investing in access, education, or culturally specific compliance supports. The issue of sex trafficking cannot be solved with punitive measures, if that were possible, we would have punished our way out of it long ago.
6. Who will this bill protect and who will it punish? This bill punishes some of the most vulnerable members of our economy. Immigrants, refugees, and other marginalized people who are working towards a better life for themselves and their families will not be helped by business closures, violent and scary encounters with police, criminal charges, or fines.
7. HB 3819 A risks repeating historical patterns of racialized enforcement by disproportionately targeting Asian and immigrant-owned massage businesses under the guise of regulation. Instead of punitive measures, Oregon should focus on supportive policies that ensure worker rights, health protections, and pathways to legal compliance without reinforcing discrimination and stigma.

Most concerning is the fact that massage parlor employees, small business owners, and consensual sex workers dedicated to fighting human sex trafficking were not included in the decision making process - erasing their voices and lived experiences along the way. It is imperative that we include the perspectives of those who this bill purports to protect.

In this office we unequivocally believe that voluntary and consensual sex work is **real** work and is deserving of the same dignity, respect, and protections of any other industry. Workers' rights are human

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<sup>1</sup> [https://simmonscenter.brown.edu/work-center/research-clusters/human-trafficking/policing-asian-massage-work?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://simmonscenter.brown.edu/work-center/research-clusters/human-trafficking/policing-asian-massage-work?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**FARRAH CHAICHI**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 35



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rights. I am committed to using my office to combat human trafficking and advocate for survivors but unfortunately, this bill casts too wide a net and will almost certainly cause more harm than it will prevent.

Sincerely,

*Farrah Chaichi*

Representative Farrah Chaichi  
House District 35