



# OREGON SENATE REPUBLICANS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Senate Republicans condemn human trafficking**  
*Human Trafficking Awareness Day presents opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking in Oregon, 2017 session presents opportunity to help end it*

SALEM- Today is [Human Trafficking Awareness Day](#). Beginning in 2010, with a [proclamation by President Barack Obama](#), each January has been designated National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

In 2007, a [Senate Resolution named January 11 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day](#). Despite efforts to defeat human trafficking across the globe, the problem has continued to worsen at an alarming rate. In 2016 alone, the [National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline \(NHTRC\)](#) received 20,424 calls and had 5,748 cases of trafficking reported.

**Athena Republican state Sen. Bill Hansell, sponsor of Senate Bill 375, offered the following statement:**

"We must seize every opportunity to be engaged in fighting this insidious practice. Gov. Kate Brown will have the opportunity to sign into law one of my bills that will help empower Oregonians to combat human trafficking and move us forward to a better reality when it comes to this issue."

**Salem Republican state Sen. Jackie Winters, a co-sponsor of SB 375, said:**

"Oregon will continue our battle against modern day slavery. I am a proud co-sponsor of legislation to help give us one more tool to reach victims and provide assistance in setting victims free."

[SB 375](#) directs certain agencies to allow informational materials about human trafficking to be posted at roadside rest areas and establishes the Department of Transportation Human Trafficking Awareness and State Parks and Recreation Department Human Trafficking

Awareness programs.

**State Sen. Dennis Linthicum, R-Klamath Falls, urged fellow lawmakers this session to support legislative efforts to defeat human trafficking:**

"We must defeat human trafficking abroad, and we have the power to end human trafficking here in Oregon. This session presents an opportunity to strengthen our state's laws, empower our communities and terminate modern day slavery to release from bondage the innocent victims of this abhorrent violence."

**Central Oregon state Sen. Tim Knopp, a Republican, said:**

"Today marks Human Trafficking Awareness Day. I want the victims of human trafficking to know we are going to do everything we can to free you from your trafficker. We won't stop until everyone being exploited is rescued."

Two bills Knopp sponsored have been passed and signed into law. One measure, Senate Bill 13-673, enhanced penalties for trafficking children, or if force was used and trafficking was for the purpose of commercial sex acts. Another measure, House Bill 16-4082, expanded crimes of promoting trafficking to include receiving goods, services or other things of value derived from trafficking.

The full text of [SB 13-673](#) can be viewed [here](#). The full text of [HB 16-4082](#) can be viewed [here](#).

Hansell's 2017 legislation as introduced can be viewed in full [here](#).

More detailed Oregon-specific statistics can be viewed [here](#).

NHTRC Hotline Stories can be read in full [here](#).

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