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HB 3623 FACT SHEET: Combating Human Trafficking in Oregon

About Human Trafficking:

- Human trafficking is 21st century slavery, and is closer to home than we might like to imagine. This practice is defined as the purchase, sale and profit of people forced into service as prostitutes and laborers.
- The average age of entry into international slavery-based prostitution is 12 to 14 years old¹. The international human trafficking industry is a \$44 billion/year industry. This is a global challenge.
- Located on the 1-5 corridor, Oregon has become a hub for victims trafficked along the West Coast. In a recent FBI sting conducted in 30 US cities, Portland yielded the second most arrests and victims.
- Statistics describing human trafficking are difficult to obtain. Perpetrators are typically prosecuted for different crimes and victims are afraid to come forward at all. Human trafficking provides a lucrative business for criminals. A drug dealer sells his drugs once, but a child or young woman can be forced to bring back money over and over again. The prostitute sees little if any of the cash. According to the FBI² 15,000 to 18,000 victims are brought here to the United States and almost a quarter million American children are at risk of sexual exploitation each year³.
- Among the biggest barriers to addressing this tragedy the secrecy and danger of illicit trafficking circles. In the 1980s, the elimination of domestic violence faced a similar challenge: nobody talked about it, nobody investigated it and people didn't know where to find help. Raising awareness is a crucial first step to addressing human trafficking.

About HB 3623:

- Access to information and increased awareness are the first steps. The bill will provide the Oregon Liquor Control Commission with stickers (about the size of a dollar bill) listing the National Human Trafficking Hotline with information about this practice. The OLCC will encourage all licensed business to post the sticker conspicuously. The Polaris Project - an anti-human trafficking non-profit - administers the free 24-hour hotline in 150 languages.
- The hotline helps in four ways:
 1. The hotline facilitates direct relief. 2 to 5% of the calls are direct requests for help. The hotline assesses the situation, and refers victims and survivors directly to shelters.
 2. The hotline fields calls for those reporting suspicious behavior. 25-30% of all calls are tips reporting instances of human trafficking.
 3. The hotline directs agencies to resources for supporting trafficked victims.
 4. Above all, by having information about human trafficking in visible and frequented businesses, the stickers raise consciousness about the prevalence of this practice here in Oregon.

¹ IBID

² http://www.fbi.gov/page2/june06/human_trafficking061206.htm

³ Estes, Richard J. and Neil A. Weiner. *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico*. The University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work: 2001. Study funded by the Department of Justice