



# News Release

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## Oregon Elected Officials and OLCC team up to raise awareness about Human Trafficking



**PORTLAND, Ore.** - Most people think the enslavement of a human being, typically called human trafficking, is a crime only happening overseas. In fact, human trafficking victimizes Oregonians with tragic frequency. In the U.S., the average age of a girl first forced into prostitution is 12-14.

The first step to ending human trafficking is awareness. That's why Oregon's elected officials and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission are providing information to liquor licensees through HB 3623.

HB 3623 allows the OLCC to include human trafficking informational stickers in certain license renewal notices sent by the OLCC. A letter addressing the issues of human trafficking encourages liquor licensees to display a sticker, provided by the Anti-Crime Alliance, to raise awareness of services available to victims. The sticker displays a toll-free hotline, 1-888-373-7888, created and managed by the Polaris Project.

"Many of the people who are forced into human trafficking don't realize that help exists," said Rep. Brent Barton, Clackamas Dist. 51. "The numerous legislators and local government officials who supported this bill realize the severity of the issue and the need to reach out to help these victims of slavery."

Volunteers from many groups including Oregonians Against Trafficking Humans and Oregon Center for Christian Values have volunteered through Rep. Brent Barton's office to help OLCC staff insert the letter and the sticker into the mailings Monday. Thousands of license renewal letters will be mailed throughout the year.

"Businesses across the state will receive this sticker and have the opportunity to post it where their customers and employees can see," said Chairman Philip Lang, OLCC. "The OLCC is glad to be working with our legislators to get this important message out and hopefully, save someone's life."

The media is invited to join the OLCC and several elected officials as the first of many letters are sent to liquor licensees. Victims of human trafficking will be at the press event to share their stories of enslavement. The event will be held Monday, April 19, 10:30 am at the OLCC Milwaukie headquarters office, 9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd.

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*"Promoting Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service"*