

Testimony in Support of HB 276

My name is Youngbee Dale, and I am the CEO at Dale Consulting, LLC. based in Columbus, Ohio. At Dale Consulting, I publish peer-reviewed studies, offer trainings to law enforcement and service providers, and provide expert witness services for human trafficking cases. As of 2021, I have published three studies on the commercial sex market and learned the importance of prosecuting all individuals profiting from sex trafficking and other commercial sexual exploitation of men, women, and children.

Based on my studies, HB 276, if enacted, will provide a tool for law enforcement to deter the commercial sexual exploitation of men, women, and children more effectively.

In my 2019 study, "Money Laundering in the United States Sex Market," I have identified 99 money laundering related cases prosecuted in the U.S. sex market.¹ These cases were charged between 1989 and 2018 in either federal or state courts around the U.S. The study also found that many entities who support brothel operations or sex trafficking businesses often financially benefit from multiple brothel operations. For instance, in *U.S. v. Ryan Kim et al. (2016)*., Ryan Kim earned millions of dollars for facilitating multiple Korean brothels exploiting many Korean women under debt bondage. Ryan Kim conspired with his accountant to launder the prostitution proceeds from multiple brothels. Though Ryan Kim received ten years in prison for money laundering charges, his accountant did not receive any penalties for conspiring with Ryan Kim.

In *U.S. v. Taylor (2000)*, Andre Lavon Taylor sex-trafficked multiple victims, including a 16 year old minor. Taylor and his minor victim made at least one round trip to Phoenix to obtain a fraudulent identification for the victim. Taylor also worked with his real estate agent to purchase a home in Las Vegas with the illicit proceeds from exploiting his victims through commercial sex. Though the interview with former criminals show that many facilitators often know that the traffickers purchase their services with prostitution proceeds, neither the fraudulent identification broker nor Taylor's real estate agent received penalties for assisting and profiting from Taylor's sex trafficking business.

Lastly, in 2018, Brandon Martin and Tameko Lindo were indicted after operating a prostitution business nationwide. Though more than 3000 hotels around the nation assisted Martin and Lindo's prostitution business, none of these hotels faced criminal charges for profiting from the prostitution business. These cases show that a bill like HB 276 if implemented, will hold many entities and individuals accountable for financially benefiting from the commercial sex industry.

Some argued that a bill like HB 276 would likely harm the families who received prostitution proceeds from those engaged in commercial sex, if it is signed into law. However, my 2019 study show that most cases prosecuted in the U.S. has not involved family members. Out of 99 cases prosecuted between 1989 and 2018, only four (4%) cases mentioned family members in

¹ Dale, Youngbee (2019) "Money Laundering in the Commercial Sex Market in the United States," *Dignity: A Journal of Analysis of Exploitation and Violence*: Vol. 4: Iss. 4, Article 1.
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the indictment. Also, three (3%) out of the four cases mentioned the defendants' family members as the brothel was a family business (U.S. v. Rendon-Reyes, 2015; U.S. v. Evans, 2001; U.S. v. Owens et al., 2013). However, in one case, though the defendant's family member was mentioned in the indictment, she was never charged with a crime because of her lack of direct involvement or knowledge of the defendant's prostitution business and its proceeds (U.S. v. Kim et al., 2012). These cases show that HB 276 is unlikely than not to harm families who receive prostitution proceeds without an intent or knowledge.

In light of the evidence above, HB 276 will more likely than not help deter the commercial sexual exploitation of women, men, and children.