

To the House Committee on the Judiciary:

As a sex worker, queer person, churchgoer, and someone who has been a client of the adult industry, I am vehemently opposed to H7201 and all of the stigma that surrounds this legislation. The conflation of sex trafficking and sex work is long overdue to be put to bed: as it stands, resources that could be used to apprehend actual predators in our New England communities are being used to criminalize adult consensual workers and clients. I know many people fear-monger with questions related to 'how to protect the children', but H7201 is not specific to adults soliciting minors— it is always illegal to abuse kids— yet this focuses on adults, the word 'minor' does not even appear in this bill.

The continued insistence to stigmatise, harass, and violate those who engage in consensual adult intimacy in exchange for life-saving resources is tired, and old; to quote our local great COYOTE (which stands for CALL OFF YOUR OLD TIRED ETHICS). The terrorising behaviours of SWERFs looking to end\*\* a long-standing choice of labor for folks who need flexible schedules or struggle to retain typical employment cannot be passed onto those who are taking steps to support local and show up for themselves as adults surviving under capitalism. Awkward or unconventionally attractive people are not an enemy of the state, of themselves, or of the adult providers they seek out for consensual services.

I am concerned about the financial impact on constituents accused of solicitation. It is no secret that those typically engaged in the adult industry are folks experiencing poverty, and while we often acknowledge that of the providers, this is seen on the other side of the interaction, as well. I have had clients in my history as an erotic laborer who revealed saving up for such a special experience as the one we curate together. I find that true to what I see around my work, and higher fines do not keep any community safer, but can adversely force desperation which leads to dangerous decisions.

What I need to say is that H7201 does not read like legislation looking to improve public health, or public safety, but instead is looking to line pockets of predatory organisations who already make money off of my community's misfortune.

\*\* There is no way to 'end' erotic labor, instead we are forced to choose to stay silent and hidden and open ourselves up to interpersonal danger, or speak up and risk different forms of state-sanctioned violence. There has to be another way. There has to be a separation between public legislation and personal morals. Reject H7201. Seek salvation through respecting and understanding clients and providers in the adult industry.

Thank you for your efforts in preventing disproportionate and unnecessary violence against adults seeking consensual intimacy. Thank you for focusing resources not on scandals or separations of families, but instead towards listening to reports of bad actors and preventing third-party exploitation. "Pimps" are not clients (or "buyers" as written in this legislation) and it is OLD and TIRED to conflate the two using outdated mental images and inflammatory language.

sincerely, kwd