

Roberta DiMezza

From: Decrim SWCA <admin@decrimsexworkca.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2024 7:21 AM
To: Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; House Judiciary Committee
Cc: Coyote.rhodeisland@gmail.com; bella@coyoteri.org
Subject: Support of H7307 and Opposition of H7165 (DecrimSWCA)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear members of the House Judiciary Committee:

DecrimSexWorkCA is a coalition **led by sex workers and survivors** in CA.

We support H7307 because it would enable people like us, who are frequent victims of crime and violence due to our criminalized status, to seek justice and protection when we are targets of violence. Being able to do so also enables us to seek and receive support from other services because we are not at risk of arrest.

We oppose H7165 because it will have awful consequences for our community. When it comes to sex work, licensing requirements like this only exacerbate the vulnerability and violence that massage workers experience. This is because predators, violent criminals, and corrupt law enforcement are able to target and exploit unlicensed workers. Unfortunately, we see this a lot in our community.

Members of our coalition and leadership have all experienced violence as a result of criminalization which has direct and indirect consequences (which H7307 would help prevent), while laws like H7165 set unrealistic and racist licensing requirements that will result in a two tier system where some are able to comply and others are not -typically those most marginalized to begin with.

We support h7307 and oppose h7165 because doing so will support public safety, public health, reduce sex trafficking and violence and be better aligned with international human rights standards including the right to work, the right to bodily autonomy and the right to be free from violence and discrimination.

Please support H7307 and oppose H7165.

DecrimSexWorkCA Coalition
San Francisco, CA 94111

DETAILS:

80% of Rhode Island sex workers said they would report serious crimes to police if there were an immunity law in place to protect them.

Any serious attempt to promote public safety or end sex trafficking must include allowing ALL sex workers, sex trafficking survivors, and our clients (who are first responders in most cases of sex trafficking) to report violence without being charged with prostitution or massaging without a license. **H7307 accomplishes this.**

H7165 does not include immunity for massage without a license, even though 13 out of 16 prostitution related misdemeanors in 2021 were for massage without a license and the war on Rhode Island sex workers has targeted Asian spa workers for the last several years. **Please vote no on this racist bill.**

H7165 would give bad actors another tool with which to coerce and extort sex workers by allowing them to report sex workers for prostitution and receive immunity themselves by making the report. **An immunity law should not make sex workers less safe!**

On behalf of DecrimSexWorkCA,

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