

TESTIMONY OF HASNA SAL SUPPORTING HB 2403

Chairman Brungardt and honorable members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee, my name is Hasna Sal. I am a native of Kansas and currently a public art artist, sculptor and architect in Overland Park, KS. I am honored to speak to you in support of HB 2403, "The Community Defense Act", a statewide regulation of sexually oriented businesses (SOB) through constitutionally sound Time, Place and Manner restrictions.

I have created the first exterior memorial in the nation for survivors of human trafficking. This memorial was the result was my journey for the past two years meeting and listening to stories of survivors of human trafficking. From them, I have learned that trafficking happens because of poverty, addiction and manipulation. For children of broken homes and abusive parents, sexually oriented businesses is one of the avenues that facilitate platforms for young teenagers to escape their abysmal conditions, only to end up being exploited in the wrong hands. They become objectified and used as a money-making tool.

This is why my memorial titled 'Into the Light' is created as the life of a survivor, from darkness into light. The four panels of the installation are four stories that depict the phases in a survivor's life- Isolation, Damnation, Redemption and Salvation

The first phase is 'isolation' when they are abused in their own homes by parents and/or siblings, because of poverty and addiction. This is when they run away from home, lured by the false promises of love and support by a duplicitous individual or friends. Friends who work in sexually oriented businesses entice others to follow them into these establishments. And that's when the second phase starts.

Second phase is Damnation. When they are in the 'damnation' phase of their lives, sexually oriented businesses can act as facilitators of this lamentable situation. I'm told these young vulnerable workers are forced to work for days on end with minimal pay, and they are forced to endure terrible experiences including life threatening ones.

This is what I have heard from the survivors of human trafficking and therefore I am testifying on behalf of those survivors who shared their stories with me.

Thank you.

-Hasna Sal.