

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B
GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS



October 10, 2019

The Honorable Charles Allen
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
John A. Wilson Building Suite 110
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Allen:

I am writing on behalf of ANC3B to express our views about the proposed bill B23-0318. "The Community Safety and Health Amendment Act of 2019," which will be the subject of a hearing in your committee on October 17. As written, the bill would decriminalize operating a brothel, acting as a pimp, and purchasing sex in the District of Columbia.

We have been contacted about this bill by several groups that work with individuals who have been trafficked or forced to serve in the sex trade. These groups are extremely concerned that by decriminalizing the actions related to running the sex trade and being a customer for the sex trade, the bill would leave individuals who are the victims of sex trafficking and abuse as sex workers even more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation at the hands of traffickers, pimps, and customers.

We oppose passage of the legislation and urge you and your committee to look further into the adverse effects this legislation could have on individuals who are already abused and exploited in the sex trade. It is surely not your intention to adopt a bill that would have that result.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Turmail", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Turmail
Chairman

This letter was approved by a vote of 5-0 at a duly noticed regular public meeting on October 10, 2019 at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.) With that vote, the Commission also designated the Chairman or his designee to represent the Commission on this matter.