



## FREEDOM STICKERS

Freedom Stickers contain the National Human Trafficking Hotline and are strategically placed in public restroom stalls, providing victims of human trafficking with a safe place to call or text for help. IOB knows of specific survivors who have been recovered as a result of Freedom Stickers. We know that Freedom Stickers save lives and our hope is that more victims of human trafficking would see a Freedom Sticker and call or text the hotline and begin on their path to freedom and restoration.

Freedom Stickers originated with In Our Backyard, in collaboration with survivors of human trafficking in 2011. In 2014, Founder and Executive Director of In Our Backyard, Nita Belles, was approached by the Oregon Legislature to advise on a human trafficking bill (HB 3143) that passed in 2015, requiring that Freedom Stickers go out with every renewal of a liquor license in the state through a partnership with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC)<sup>1</sup>. Belles has advised on similar laws for other states.



Due to the nature of constant abusive control and manipulation by traffickers, survivors note that one of the only safe places for them to ask for help is inside of a public restroom stall. In 2016 more than 4,600 calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline came directly from survivors according to Bradley Myles CEO of Polaris. An all-time high for the organization, this signals that more survivors are calling directly and are successfully receiving the appropriate resources on both a local and national level<sup>2</sup>.

**Are you safe? Need freedom?**

¿Se siente seguro? ¿Necesita ser libre?

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE  
**888-3737-888**  
Text "HELP" to 233733 (BeFree)

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
IN OUR BACKYARD**  
www.InOurBackyard.org

Freedom Stickers also increase public awareness of the realities of human trafficking in our own backyard and provide a way of reporting potential trafficking situations they may observe. According to a 2016 study from Northeastern University, the most effective way to increase human trafficking arrests is to post the National Human Trafficking Hotline in public places<sup>3</sup>.

As of 2017, Freedom Stickers are in all 50 states in locations including hospitals, schools, convenience stores, parks, bars, government buildings and more. The partnership and support of the OLCC continues, and in 2017 another bill passed which mandates the posting of Freedom Stickers in all rest stops across Oregon<sup>4</sup>.

### References & Notes

1. <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB3143/Enrolled>
2. Forbes. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/toriutley/2017/01/31/3-nonprofit-leaders-speak-on-their-top-priorities-in-the-fight-to-eradicate-human-trafficking/#6778eb803f6e>
3. Bouche, V., Farrell, A. & Wittmer, D. (2016). *Identifying Effective Counter-Trafficking Programs and Practices in the U.S.: Legislative, Legal, and Public Opinion Strategies that Work*.
4. <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB375/Enrolled>
5. Signing of HB 3143 pictured above
6. Image of Freedom Sticker (updated in 2017) pictured above