Decriminalizing sex work will lead to more people joining the sex trade.

Many people engage in sex work because they have no or few alternatives. Trans people of color, for example, experience high rates of employment discrimination and find themselves with no option except to engage in criminalized work. With a criminal record, sex workers are more likely to experience further employment discrimination and find themselves trapped in this form of work. Decriminalizing the work they do to survive will help decrease the stigma associated with this work and make it easier for sex workers to access alternative opportunities.

Aren’t all sex workers are forced into the sex trade?

People choose sex work for a wide range of reasons -- flexible schedules, higher pay than many other entry-level jobs, or just because they enjoy it. There are also many people who engage in sex work because it's the only option available to them while experiencing homelessness. We want to make sure people have options and resources, and that’s why this bill will both decriminalize sex work and create a task force to ensure that there are next steps to ensure the health and safety of people working in the sex trade.