

# MAINE LD 1435

## Political Endorsements, Advocacy Support, and Documented Funding Relationships

**Purpose.** This report combines the principal facts concerning Maine's 2023 prostitution-law change, the lawmakers and organizations that supported it, and the major funders publicly connected to those organizations.

### 1. The Law

**LD 1435, An Act to Reduce Commercial Sexual Exploitation**, became Public Law 2023, chapter 316, when Governor Janet Mills signed it on June 26, 2023. The law removed the offense of engaging in prostitution for the person selling sexual activity while retaining or strengthening penalties directed at purchasers, traffickers, and people profiting from commercial sexual exploitation.

**Legal characterization.** This was partial decriminalization, commonly described by supporters as the Equality Model or Nordic Model. It was not full decriminalization of the commercial sex trade because purchasing sexual activity remained unlawful.

### 2. Principal Political Supporters

Representative Lois Galgay Reckitt, Democrat of South Portland, introduced and championed LD 1435. Governor Janet Mills signed the enacted bill. The bill's listed cosponsors were:

- Senator Pinny Beebe-Center
- Representative Lynn Copeland
- Representative Janice Dodge
- Representative Lori Gramlich
- Representative Grayson Lookner
- Representative Holly Sargent
- Representative Laura Supica
- Representative Maureen Terry
- Representative Samuel Zager

**Legislative approval.** The Judiciary Committee issued a 10 to 3 majority recommendation in favor of the amended bill. The House advanced the majority report by 86 to 57. The Senate accepted the majority report by 23 to 12 and later approved final enactment by 24 to 11.

### 3. Advocacy Organizations Identified as Supporters

Public accounts and advocacy materials identify the following organizations as supporters of the Equality Model legislation or closely related Maine measures:

- Just Love Worldwide, led by trafficking survivor Tricia Grant
- The Jensen Project
- Rights4Girls
- National Center on Sexual Exploitation
- Coalition Against Trafficking in Women
- World Without Exploitation

Tricia Grant credited Representative Reckitt's leadership, Governor Mills's support, and a bipartisan group of legislators. Legislative sponsorship itself was entirely Democratic, although the recorded legislative votes included broader support.

### 4. Major Publicly Documented Funders

The amounts below represent grants located in publicly available nonprofit filings and grant disclosures. They do not necessarily account for every donation received by an organization.

| Organization                           | Documented major funding relationships                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Just Love Worldwide                    | No major institutional funder was clearly identified in the public records reviewed. Its website solicits donations, while publicly available IRS information does not identify its major contributors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| The Jensen Project                     | Human Investment Foundation, about \$9.6 million across five grants from 2020 through 2024; National Philanthropic Trust, about \$452,000; Shepard Family Private Foundation, about \$112,000; HLH Family Foundation, about \$48,000. Smaller reported sources include Zoology Foundation at Crooked Willow Farms, National Christian Charitable Foundation, Jewish Community Foundation, and Communities Foundation of Texas. |
| Rights4Girls                           | The Jensen Project funded policy advocacy involving Rights4Girls beginning in 2023 and continued supporting its work in later grant cycles. NoVo Foundation supported collaborative projects involving Rights4Girls, including the Life Story initiative. Earlier project materials also acknowledge support from NoVo Foundation and 4Girls Foundation. Direct totals are not consistently published.                         |
| National Center on Sexual Exploitation | The Pentecost Foundation is the largest publicly identified funder; a recent reported grant was \$800,000. Other recent reported grants include approximately \$580,500 from The Jensen Project and \$270,600 through Fidelity Charitable. NCOSE states that it is funded solely by private individual contributions and private foundations.                                                                                  |

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|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Coalition Against Trafficking in Women | NoVo Foundation, about \$600,000 from 2020 through 2023; Fidelity Charitable, about \$199,000; Sisterhood Is Global Institute or Frontline Women's Fund, about \$180,000; Jewish Communal Fund, about \$140,000; Inmaat Foundation, about \$125,000; Chicago Community Trust, about \$105,000. Other reported funders include the Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation, Ingrid and Luis von Ahn Foundation, Amplify Her Charitable Foundation, and The Jensen Project. |
| World Without Exploitation             | The Jensen Project, about \$755,000 from 2023 through 2024; Human Investment Foundation, about \$655,000 from 2021 through 2023; Jenesis Group, \$25,000; Inmaat Foundation, \$10,000; Hunt Alternatives, \$10,000. World Without Exploitation has also operated as a fiscally sponsored project of the Tides Center; fiscal sponsorship does not establish that Tides supplied the underlying donations.                                                                    |

5. Funding Network

- Human Investment Foundation supplied approximately \$9.6 million to The Jensen Project during 2020 through 2024.
- The Jensen Project subsequently funded Rights4Girls, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, World Without Exploitation, and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.
- Human Investment Foundation also funded World Without Exploitation directly.
- NoVo Foundation was a major funder of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and supported collaborative work involving Rights4Girls.

6. Disclosure Limitations

**Public nonprofit filings do not reveal every original donor.** Public charities may redact contributor identities from publicly released versions of Schedule B. In addition, Fidelity Charitable, National Philanthropic Trust, Jewish Communal Fund, and similar entities administer donor-advised funds. Their appearance in a grant record generally identifies the charitable payment vehicle, not necessarily the person who recommended or originally supplied the donation.

The amounts in this report show grants traceable through filings or organizational disclosures. They should not be represented as a complete accounting of each organization's finances or as proof that a funder directed a particular legislative campaign.

7. Sources

**Official Maine legislative history for LD 1435:**  
<https://lldc.mainelegislature.org/Open/Meta/LegHist/131/lh131-LD-1435.pdf>

**Maine bill status and governor action:**  
<https://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280088240>

**Senate final enactment roll call 353:** <https://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/rollcall.asp?ID=280088240&chamber=Senate&serialnumber=353>

**Maine House Democrats announcement:** <https://www.maine.gov/housedems/news/governor-signs-reckitt-bill-partially-decriminalize-prostitution>

**Tricia Grant account of organizational support:**

<https://www.bangordailynews.com/2024/02/12/opinion/opinion-contributor/maine-combat-human-trafficking-equality-model/>

**The Jensen Project funding records:** <https://philanthropy.org/990/who-funds/843529599/the-jensen-project-inc>

**World Without Exploitation funding records:**

<https://philanthropy.org/990/who-funds/414194714/world-without-exploitation-inc>

**Coalition Against Trafficking in Women funding records:**

<https://philanthropy.org/990/who-funds/223032134/coalition-against-trafficking-in-women>

**National Center on Sexual Exploitation funding records:**

<https://philanthropy.org/990/who-funds/132608326/national-center-on-sexual-exploitation-inc>

**Rights4Girls grant from The Jensen Project:**

<https://www.thejensenproject.org/education-advocacy/2025-policy-advocacy-grant-recipients/rights4girls/>

**NoVo Foundation Life Story grant announcement:** <https://philanthropynewyork.org/news/novo-foundation-announces-life-story-grantee-partners-addressing-commercial-sexual-exploitation>

**NCOSE financial disclosures:** <https://endsexualexploitation.org/about/finances/>