

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 12 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY LEACH, STACK, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, ERICKSON, FERLO
AND ROBBINS, JANUARY 19, 2011

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 19, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 11, 2011, as "National Human Trafficking
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a tradition of advancing
4 fundamental human rights; and

5 WHEREAS, It is imperative to eliminate human trafficking,
6 including early or forced marriage, commercial sexual
7 exploitation, forced labor, labor obtained through debt bondage,
8 involuntary servitude, slavery and slavery by descent; and

9 WHEREAS, To combat human trafficking in this Commonwealth and
10 globally, the people of Pennsylvania and State and local
11 governments must be aware of the realities of human trafficking
12 and must be dedicated to stopping this contemporary
13 manifestation of slavery; and

14 WHEREAS, Efforts shall be made to actively oppose all
15 individuals, groups, organizations and nations who support,
16 advance or commit acts of human trafficking and to work to end
17 human trafficking around the world through education; and

18 WHEREAS, Victims of human trafficking need support in order

1 to escape and to recover from the physical, mental, emotional
2 and spiritual trauma associated with their victimization; and

3 WHEREAS, Human traffickers use many physical and
4 psychological techniques to control their victims, including the
5 use of violence or threats of violence against the victim or the
6 victim's family, isolation from the public, isolation from the
7 victim's family and religious or ethnic communities, language
8 and cultural barriers, shame, control of the victim's
9 possessions, confiscation of passports and other identification
10 documents and threats of arrest, deportation or imprisonment if
11 the victim attempts to reach out for assistance or to leave; and

12 WHEREAS, Although laws to prosecute perpetrators of human
13 trafficking and to assist and protect victims of human
14 trafficking have been enacted in the United States, awareness of
15 the issues surrounding human trafficking by those people most
16 likely to come into contact with victims is essential for
17 effective enforcement because the techniques that traffickers
18 use to keep their victims enslaved severely limit self-
19 reporting; and

20 WHEREAS, The effort by individuals, businesses, organizations
21 and governing bodies to promote the observance of "National
22 Human Trafficking Awareness Day" on January 11 of each year
23 represents one of the many examples of the ongoing commitment to
24 raise awareness of and to actively oppose human trafficking;
25 therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate support the goals and ideals of
27 observing "National Human Trafficking Awareness Day" on January
28 11, 2011, and all other efforts to raise awareness of and
29 opposition to human trafficking; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize January 11, 2011, as

1 "National Human Trafficking Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.