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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 17 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, LEACH, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, FOLMER,  
RESCHENTHALER, FARNESE, YAW, AUMENT, MARTIN, FONTANA, WARD,  
BROWNE, COSTA, RAFFERTY, TARTAGLIONE, YUDICHAK, BOSCOLA,  
STREET AND VULAKOVICH, JANUARY 31, 2017

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 31, 2017

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of January 2017 as "National Human  
2 Trafficking Awareness Month" 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, Pennsylvania's State and local government officials  
11 must be aware of the realities of human trafficking and  
12 dedicated to stopping this contemporary manifestation of  
13 slavery; and

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

1 WHEREAS, Victims of human trafficking need support in order  
2 to escape and to recover from the physical, mental, emotional  
3 and spiritual trauma associated with their victimization; and

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

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

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

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of January 2017  
28 as "National Human Trafficking Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania;  
29 and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate support the goals and ideals of

1 "National Human Trafficking Awareness Month" during January 2017  
2 and all other efforts to raise awareness of and opposition to  
3 human trafficking.