
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 265 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY LEACH, SABATINA, MENSCH, SCHWANK, TEPLITZ, VOGEL,
DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF, WOZNIAK, BREWSTER, BOSCOLA, COSTA,
RAFFERTY, FONTANA AND AUMENT, JANUARY 19, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 19, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 11, 2016, 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, 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 to 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 Day" on January 11 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 January 11, 2016, as
28 "National Human Trafficking Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania; and
29 be it further

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

1 "National Human Trafficking Awareness Day" on January 11, 2016,
2 and all other efforts to raise awareness of and opposition to
3 human trafficking.