

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 216 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY BARTOLOTTA, PHILLIPS-HILL, LANGERHOLC, BROWNE,
LAUGHLIN, COSTA, VOGEL, FONTANA, BREWSTER, HUGHES, MARTIN,
AUMENT, PITTMAN, MASTRIANO, HUTCHINSON, CAPPELLETTI, MENSCH,
STEFANO, SCHWANK AND J. WARD, JANUARY 18, 2022

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 18, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of January 2022 as "National Slavery and
2 Human Trafficking Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

5 WHEREAS, Since the passage of Pennsylvania's comprehensive
6 human trafficking law in 2014, 80 convictions have resulted out
7 of the 174 cases of trafficking in this Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of State,
9 there are an estimated 24.9 million victims of human trafficking
10 worldwide at any given time; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2020, the National Human Trafficking Hotline
12 identified 221 unique situations of trafficking in this
13 Commonwealth, of which 80% were sex trafficking and 20% were
14 labor trafficking; and

15 WHEREAS, It is imperative to eliminate human trafficking,
16 including early or forced marriage, commercial sexual
17 exploitation, forced labor, labor obtained through debt bondage,

1 involuntary servitude, slavery and slavery by descent; and

2 WHEREAS, To combat human trafficking in this Commonwealth and
3 globally, State and local government officials must be aware of
4 the realities of human trafficking and be dedicated to stopping
5 this contemporary manifestation of slavery; and

6 WHEREAS, Efforts should be made to actively oppose all
7 individuals, groups, organizations and nations who support,
8 advance or commit acts of human trafficking and work to end
9 human trafficking in this Commonwealth and around the world
10 through education; and

11 WHEREAS, Victims of human trafficking need support in order
12 to escape and recover from the physical, mental, emotional,
13 sexual and spiritual trauma associated with their victimization;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Human traffickers use many physical and
16 psychological techniques to control their victims, including the
17 use of violence or threats of violence against the victim or the
18 victim's family, isolation from the public, isolation from the
19 victim's family and religious or ethnic communities, language
20 and cultural barriers, shame, control of the victim's
21 possessions, confiscation of passports and other identification
22 documents, threats of arrest, deportation or imprisonment and
23 withholding or depriving the victim's basic needs to survive,
24 such as shelter, food, nutrition, medication, health care and
25 essential goods, if the victim attempts to reach out for
26 assistance or to leave; and

27 WHEREAS, Although laws to prosecute perpetrators of human
28 trafficking and assist and protect victims of human trafficking
29 have been enacted in the United States, awareness of the issues
30 surrounding human trafficking by those people most likely to

1 come into contact with victims is essential for effective
2 enforcement because the techniques that traffickers use to keep
3 their victims enslaved severely limit self-reporting; and

4 WHEREAS, The effort by individuals, businesses, organizations
5 and governing bodies to promote the observance of "National
6 Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month" in January of
7 each year represents one of the many examples of the ongoing
8 commitment to raise awareness of and to actively oppose human
9 trafficking; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of January 2022
11 as "National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month" in
12 Pennsylvania; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate support the goals and ideals of
14 "National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month" during
15 January 2022 and all other efforts to raise awareness of and
16 opposition to human trafficking.