

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 11, 2013, as "National Human Trafficking
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a tradition of advancing
6 fundamental human rights; and

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Efforts shall be made to actively oppose all
17 individuals, groups, organizations and nations who support,

1 advance or commit acts of human trafficking and to work to end
2 human trafficking around the world through education; and

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

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

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

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

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the goals
30 and ideals of observing "National Human Trafficking Awareness

1 Day" on January 11, 2013, and all other efforts to raise
2 awareness of and opposition to human trafficking; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize January
5 11, 2013, as "National Human Trafficking Awareness Day" in
6 Pennsylvania.