
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 282 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, PHILLIPS-HILL, FONTANA,
KEARNEY, SCAVELLO, BROWNE, MARTIN, J. WARD, DINNIMAN, BLAKE,
COSTA, KILLION, HUGHES, MASTRIANO, SCHWANK, SANTARSIERO,
MENSCH, AUMENT, PITTMAN, TARTAGLIONE, BAKER, K. WARD,
YUDICHAK AND MUTH, JANUARY 27, 2020

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 27, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of January 2020 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, 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 be
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

1 human trafficking in this Commonwealth and around the world
2 through education; and

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, The effort by individuals, businesses, organizations
27 and governing bodies to promote the observance of "National
28 Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month" in January of
29 each year represents one of the many examples of the ongoing
30 commitment to raise awareness of and to actively oppose human

1 trafficking; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of January 2020
3 as "National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month" in
4 Pennsylvania; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Senate support the goals and ideals of
6 "National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month" during
7 January 2020 and all other efforts to raise awareness of and
8 opposition to human trafficking.