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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 12 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY BARTOLOTTA, PHILLIPS-HILL, BROOKS, LANGERHOLC,  
FONTANA, MARTIN, BLAKE, SCAVELLO, J. WARD, SANTARSIERO,  
MENSCH, YAW, SCHWANK, BROWNE, K. WARD, ARNOLD, PITTMAN,  
ROBINSON AND AUMENT, JANUARY 20, 2021

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 20, 2021

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of January 2021 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  
17 human trafficking in this Commonwealth and around the world

1 through education; and

2 WHEREAS, Victims of human trafficking need support in order  
3 to escape and recover from the physical, mental, emotional,  
4 sexual and spiritual trauma associated with their victimization;  
5 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, threats of arrest, deportation or imprisonment and  
14 withholding or depriving the victim's basic needs to survive,  
15 such as shelter, food, nutrition, medication, health care and  
16 essential goods, if the victim attempts to reach out for  
17 assistance or to leave; and

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

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

1       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of January 2021  
2 as "National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month" in  
3 Pennsylvania; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That the Senate support the goals and ideals of  
5 "National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month" during  
6 January 2021 and all other efforts to raise awareness of and  
7 opposition to human trafficking.