

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 14

Reps. Kahle, Bollin, Bezotte, Damoose, Meerman, Bellino, Hood, Breen, O'Malley, Roth, Kuppa, Yaroch, Whiteford, Garza, Haadsma and Rendon offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare January 2021 as Human Trafficking
2 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Human trafficking is a crime under international,
4 federal, and state law, and one of the fastest-growing crimes in
5 the world, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable
6 form of crime, according to the U.S. Department of State; and

7 Whereas, Human trafficking is defined as the recruitment,
8 harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of persons for
9 labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for
10 the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt

1 bondage, or slavery, and the inducement of a commercial sex act by
2 force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to
3 perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; and

4 Whereas, Human trafficking is not exclusive to just one
5 gender. All victims of human trafficking deserve equal respect and
6 the opportunity to report that trauma without judgement; and

7 Whereas, To combat this form of modern-day slavery, the people
8 of the United States, the federal government, and state and local
9 governments must work to better understand the complex nature of
10 this problem; and

11 Whereas, According to Rights4Girls, a human rights
12 organization working to end gender-based violence in the U.S.,
13 African-American girls are disproportionately affected; Latino and
14 Asian-American girls also experience unacceptable and
15 disproportionate levels of trafficking; and

16 Whereas, We applaud the special unit designated to combat
17 human trafficking in our State's Attorney General's Office and more
18 must be done statewide to combat this growing trend. State and
19 local law enforcement agencies must demonstrate a proactive
20 approach to increasing awareness and prevention protocols and
21 establishing community outreach efforts with civic, ecumenical, and
22 community groups to keep our citizens safe; now, therefore, be it

23 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
24 this legislative body declare January 2021 as Human Trafficking
25 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We support and commend
26 all work by individuals, businesses, organizations, and governing
27 bodies for their important contributions to this commitment to end
28 human trafficking; and be it further

29 Resolved, That the members of this legislative body encourage

1 all Michiganders to use this month as an opportunity to educate
2 themselves about human trafficking and be aware of how prevalent it
3 is in our state; and be it further

4 Resolved, That we stand in full support of those victims of
5 human trafficking who have yet to escape or be found and liberated;
6 and be it further

7 Resolved, That we offer the gravest concern for those who have
8 had loved ones become victims to human trafficking; and be it
9 further

10 Resolved, That we commend those individuals who have been
11 victims of trafficking and have survived to overcome the atrocity;
12 and be it further

13 Resolved, That we support and commend all work by individuals,
14 businesses, organizations, and governing bodies for their important
15 contributions themselves to putting an end to human trafficking.