

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8

Reps. Wendzel, Alexander, Andrews, Aragona, BeGole, Bezotte, Bierlein, Bollin, Borton, Brabec, Breen, Brixie, Byrnes, Tyrone Carter, Brenda Carter, Coffia, Conlin, DeBoer, De Boyer, Dievendorf, Edwards, Farhat, Filler, Fink, Fitzgerald, Fox, Glanville, Grant, Green, Greene, Haadsma, Harris, Hill, Hoadley, Johnsen, Kuhn, Kunse, Maddock, Markkanen, Martin, Martus, Meerman, Mentzer, Miller, Morgan, Morse, Mueller, Neeley, Neyer, Outman, Paiz, Pohutsky, Puri, Rheingans, Rigas, Rogers, Roth, Schmaltz, Schriver, Schuette, Scott, Shannon, Skaggs, Smit, Steele, Stone, Thompson, Tisdell, Tsernoglou, VanderWall, Weiss, Wilson, Wozniak and Young offered the following resolution:

- 1 A resolution to declare January 2023 as Human Trafficking
- 2 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

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

5 Whereas, Human trafficking is defined as the recruitment,
6 harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of persons for
7 labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for
8 the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt
9 bondage, or slavery, and the inducement of a commercial sex act by
10 force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to
11 perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; and

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

15 Whereas, To combat this form of modern-day slavery, the people
16 of the United States, the federal government, and state and local
17 governments must work to better understand the complex nature of
18 this problem; and

19 Whereas, According to Rights4Girls, a human rights
20 organization working to end gender-based violence in the U.S.,
21 African-American girls are disproportionately affected; Latino and
22 Asian-American girls also experience unacceptable and
23 disproportionate levels of trafficking; and

24 Whereas, We applaud the special unit designated to combat
25 human trafficking in our State's Attorney General's Office and more
26 must be done statewide to combat this growing trend. State and
27 local law enforcement agencies must demonstrate a proactive
28 approach to increasing awareness and prevention protocols and
29 establishing community outreach efforts with civic, ecumenical, and

1 community groups to keep our citizens safe; now, therefore, be it

2 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
3 this legislative body declare January 2023 as Human Trafficking
4 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We support and commend
5 all work by individuals, businesses, organizations, and governing
6 bodies for their important contributions to this commitment to end
7 human trafficking; and be it further

8 Resolved, That the members of this legislative body encourage
9 all Michiganders to use this month as an opportunity to educate
10 themselves about human trafficking and be aware of how prevalent it
11 is in our state; and be it further

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

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

18 Resolved, That we commend those individuals who have been
19 victims of trafficking and have survived to overcome the atrocity;
20 and be it further

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