

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 3

Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BAKER, BISHOP, BOBACK, V. BROWN,
CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, DAVIDSON, DAVIS,
DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GABLER,
GILLEN, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HARHART, HARKINS, A. HARRIS,
J. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, KAUFFMAN, KILLION, KIM,
KINSEY, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MAJOR, MALONEY, MARSICO,
McNEILL, MILLARD, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, C. PARKER, PASHINSKI,
PETRI, PICKETT, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, ROSS, ROZZI, SCHLOSSBERG,
SCHWEYER, SNYDER, SONNEY, TALLMAN, THOMAS, VEREB, WATSON,
YOUNGBLOOD, HICKERNELL, DONATUCCI, GIBBONS AND McCARTER,
JANUARY 21, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 21, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 11, 2015, as "National Human Trafficking
2 Awareness Day" 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 residents and State and local governments
11 must be aware of the realities of human trafficking and
12 dedicated to stopping this contemporary manifestation of
13 slavery; and

1 WHEREAS, Efforts must be made to actively oppose all
2 individuals, groups, organizations and nations who support,
3 advance or commit acts of human trafficking and to work to end
4 human trafficking around the world through education; and

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

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

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

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

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize January
2 11, 2015, as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in
3 Pennsylvania; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the goals
5 and ideals of "National Human Trafficking Awareness Day" on
6 January 11, 2015, and all other efforts to raise awareness of
7 and opposition to human trafficking.