

**No. R-10. House concurrent resolution recognizing the outstanding work of the Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force and designating January 11, 2013 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.3)

Offered by: Representatives Ram of Burlington, Ancel of Calais, Bissonnette of Winooski, Branagan of Georgia, Buxton of Tunbridge, Campion of Bennington, Christie of Hartford, Condon of Colchester, Consejo of Sheldon, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Dakin of Chester, Deen of Westminster, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donovan of Burlington, Fay of St. Johnsbury, Grad of Moretown, Greshin of Warren, Jewett of Ripton, Krowinski of Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Lewis of Berlin, Lippert of Hinesburg, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, Moran of Wardsboro, Nuovo of Middlebury, Partridge of Windham, Pearson of Burlington, Peltz of Woodbury, Pugh of South Burlington, Ralston of Middlebury, Sharpe of Bristol, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, Townsend of South Burlington, Webb of Shelburne, Wilson of Manchester, Wizowaty of Burlington, Woodward of Johnson, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Offered by: Senator Sears

Whereas, the number of human beings estimated to be enslaved today has reached over 27 million worldwide, the highest in recorded history, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2010, 12.3 million adults and children are currently in forced labor and forced prostitution worldwide, and

Whereas, the number of prostituted children who are United States citizens has been estimated at between 100,000 and 300,000, and

Whereas, human trafficking is the second-largest and fastest-growing criminal industry in the world today, and

Whereas, in 2010, the Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force was established as part of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services and has worked diligently to create a statewide protocol for collaboration between law enforcement and victim services in Vermont, and

Whereas, since the passage of Act 55 in 2011, “An act relating to human trafficking,” the Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force has made substantial progress in protecting the citizens of Vermont against human trafficking, and

Whereas, the Polaris Project, an organization dedicated to “a world without slavery,” has ranked state laws on human trafficking and awarded Vermont its top Tier One rating, and

Whereas, in 2007, the U.S. Senate adopted S.CON.RES.40, “A concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of observing the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on January 11 of each year to raise awareness of and opposition to human trafficking,” of which U.S. Senator Obama was a cosponsor, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the importance of the work of the Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force in promoting public awareness, increasing the number of victims

identified and rescued, and increasing the number of those who are apprehended and prosecuted for the crime of human trafficking, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly designates January 11, 2013 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force at the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services in Waterbury.