

SENATE RESOLUTION

8612

By Senators Torres, Dhingra, and L. Wilson

1 WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a horrendous crime that harms
2 thousands of adults and children across the United States, as well as
3 their families and loved ones; and

4 WHEREAS, Human trafficking subjects men, women, and children in
5 the United States to forced labor, debt bondage, document servitude,
6 and sexual abuse; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2010, President Obama designated the month of January
8 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, to
9 advocate for legislation to protect survivors and punish offenders,
10 educate leaders, and raise awareness on ways the public can combat
11 human trafficking; and

12 WHEREAS, Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, victimizing
13 vulnerable populations by force or coercion; and

14 WHEREAS, Washington ranks thirteenth among the states for active
15 cases in federal courts for human trafficking cases; and

16 WHEREAS, Reports show Washington is a prime location for human
17 trafficking, due to its long international border, major seaports and
18 airports, vast and remote rural areas, dependence on agriculture, and
19 major cross-state freeways; and

20 WHEREAS, Recently Port of Seattle commissioners and Alaska and
21 Delta Airlines signed a pledge to help combat human trafficking by
22 promoting awareness and training employees at Seattle-Tacoma

1 International Airport to look for and recognize traffickers and
2 their victims; and

3 WHEREAS, Reports from the United States National Center for
4 Missing and Exploited Children show a 98.66 percent increase of
5 online enticement reports in 2020 compared to 2019, due to
6 greater online presence among students; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice Child
8 Exploitation and Obscenity Section reports that twelve years old
9 is the average age of entry into sex trade and pornography; and

10 WHEREAS, A report by the Modern Slavery Research Project
11 found that one in five youth experiencing homelessness has been
12 a victim of sex or labor trafficking; and

13 WHEREAS, Human trafficking has been a particularly prevalent
14 concern as of late in Seattle, the Yakima Valley, and Tri-
15 Cities; and

16 WHEREAS, Washington's Internet Crimes Against Children task
17 force, which dates to 1998, is part of a nationwide effort and
18 works with law enforcement agencies statewide to fight human
19 traffickers; and

20 WHEREAS, Washington's attorney general maintains a website
21 intended to serve as a hub for victims of human trafficking,
22 with the address of watraffickinghelp.org; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2003, Washington was the first state to pass a
24 law criminalizing human trafficking and continues to have the
25 most stringent law in the country; and

26 WHEREAS, January serves as an ideal time to renew efforts to
27 increase awareness of human trafficking, and understanding of
28 how to identify and deter this scourge;

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
30 Senate recognize the importance of education regarding and
31 awareness of the issue of human trafficking and the state and
32 federal resources available to support victims.

33 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
34 do hereby certify that this is a true and
35 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8612,
36 adopted by the Senate

1 January 30, 2023

2 SARAH BANNISTER

3 Secretary of the Senate