
Introduced by Senator Runner

August 25, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 88—Relative to Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 88, as introduced, Runner. Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of January 2016 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month, encourage all Californians to become educated about human trafficking and work to eradicate these criminal practices within and beyond our borders, and encourage members of the Legislature, as well as organizations, businesses, and individuals, to host or sponsor and attend community events in order to bring visibility and support to efforts made by nongovernmental organizations to recognize and combat human trafficking.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery.
- 2 It is a crime that involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to
- 3 recruit, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain a person for the
- 4 purposes of labor or sexual exploitation; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Approximately 800,000 young children, teenagers,
- 6 men, and women are trafficked across international borders
- 7 worldwide, and between 14,500 and 17,500 of those victims are
- 8 trafficked into the United States each year according to the United
- 9 States Department of State; and
- 10 WHEREAS, The public perception is that human trafficking
- 11 victims are from other countries, but data from the Attorney

1 General's 2012 report on human trafficking in California indicates
2 that 72 percent of identified victims in the United States are
3 American; and

4 WHEREAS, The California Legislature recognizes the
5 significant moral and economic harm of forced labor and human
6 trafficking to both the State of California and citizens across the
7 globe, and that ignoring this problem is detrimental not only to
8 those enslaved but to society as a whole; and

9 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes that California's
10 extensive international border, its major harbors and airports, its
11 powerful economy and accelerating population, its large immigrant
12 population, and its industries, makes it a prime target for traffickers,
13 and that combating slavery within California will serve to improve
14 conditions both domestically and internationally; and

15 WHEREAS, From mid-2010 to mid-2012, California's nine
16 regional human trafficking task forces identified 1,277 victims,
17 initiated 2,552 investigations, arrested 1,798 individuals, and
18 provided training to 25,591 law enforcement personnel,
19 prosecutors, victim service providers, and other first responders;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Nonprofit organizations, whose missions are to
22 assist trafficked individuals, provide resources allowing these
23 victims an opportunity to restore their lives through physical,
24 mental, emotional, and spiritual restoration; and

25 WHEREAS, Americans are committed to individual freedom
26 and will take the necessary steps to nonviolently stop modern day
27 slavery around the world and help its victims through the continued
28 work of community organizations and human trafficking task
29 forces; and

30 WHEREAS, Opposition to human trafficking by the American
31 people will be directed against all individuals, groups,
32 organizations, and nations that support, advance, or commit acts
33 of modern day slavery; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims January 2016
36 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in California in order to
37 encourage greater awareness of human trafficking within the State
38 of California, the United States of America, and internationally;
39 and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all Californians to
2 become educated about human trafficking and work to eradicate
3 these criminal practices within and beyond our borders; and be it
4 further

5 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages its members, as well
6 as organizations, businesses, and individuals, to host or sponsor
7 and attend community events in order to bring visibility and support
8 to efforts made by nongovernmental organizations to recognize
9 and combat human trafficking; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
11 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.