

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 48

Supporting the observation of “National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month” during the period beginning on January 1, 2019, and ending on February 1, 2019, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Mrs. DEMINGS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Supporting the observation of “National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month” during the period beginning on January 1, 2019, and ending on February 1, 2019, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery.

Whereas, because the people of the United States remain committed to protecting individual freedom, there is a national imperative to eliminate human trafficking and modern slavery, which is commonly considered to mean—

(1) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of an individual through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjecting that individual to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery; or

(2) the inducement of a commercial sex act by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the individual induced to perform that act is younger than 18 years of age;

Whereas the Department of Justice has reported that human trafficking and modern slavery has been reported and investigated in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas, to help businesses in the United States combat child labor and forced labor in global supply chains, the Department of Labor has identified 139 goods from 75 countries that are made by child labor and forced labor;

Whereas the Department of State has reported that the top 3 countries of origin of federally identified trafficking victims in 2016 were the United States, Mexico, and the Philippines;

Whereas human trafficking is a \$150 billion per year global industry and is one of the most profitable forms of transnational crime with more than 40 million victims worldwide;

Whereas, to combat human trafficking and modern slavery in the United States and globally, the people of the United States, the Federal Government, and State and local governments must be—

(1) aware of the realities of human trafficking and modern slavery; and

(2) dedicated to stopping the horrific enterprise of human trafficking and modern slavery;

Whereas the United States should hold accountable all individuals, groups, organizations, and countries that support, advance, or commit acts of human trafficking and modern slavery;

Whereas, through education, the United States must also work to end human trafficking and modern slavery in all forms in the United States and around the world;

Whereas victims of human trafficking and modern slavery should receive the necessary resources and social services to escape, and recover from, the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual trauma associated with their victimization;

Whereas human traffickers use many physical and psychological techniques to control a victim, including—

- (1) the use of violence or threats of violence against the victim or the family of the victim;
- (2) isolation of the victim from the public;
- (3) isolation of the victim from the family and religious or ethnic community of the victim;
- (4) exploitation of language and cultural barriers;
- (5) shame;
- (6) control of the possessions of the victim;
- (7) confiscation of the passport and other identification documents of the victim; and
- (8) threats of arrest, deportation, or imprisonment if the victim attempts to reach out for assistance or to escape; and

Whereas, although laws to prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking and to assist and protect victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, such as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), title XII of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4; 127 Stat. 136), the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.), the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22; 129 Stat. 227),

and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2000), have been enacted in the United States, it is essential to increase public awareness, particularly amongst individuals who are most likely to come into contact with victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, regarding conditions and dynamics of human trafficking and modern slavery precisely because traffickers use techniques that are designed to severely limit self-reporting and evade law enforcement: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives sup-
2 ports—

3 (1) observing “National Trafficking and Mod-
4 ern Slavery Prevention Month” to recognize and
5 support the victims of human trafficking and mod-
6 ern slavery;

7 (2) recognizing the vital role that people of the
8 United States have in ending human trafficking and
9 modern slavery;

10 (3) marking this observance with appropriate
11 programs and activities culminating in the observ-
12 ance of National Freedom Day, as described in sec-
13 tion 124 of title 36, United States Code; and

14 (4) all other efforts to prevent, eradicate, and
15 raise awareness of, and opposition to, human traf-
16 ficking and modern slavery.

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