



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5593/1

CMH:skw

2023 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 99

January 19, 2024 - Introduced by Senators L. JOHNSON, JAMES, SPREITZER, PFAFF, AGARD, BALLWEG, SMITH, CARPENTER and TESTIN, cosponsored by Representatives BILLINGS, O'CONNOR, MADISON, CONSIDINE, TITTL, MURSAU, CONLEY, GREEN, C. ANDERSON, MOORE OMOKUNDE, SINICKI, GUNDRUM, BINSFELD, ALLEN, STUBBS, VINING, RATCLIFF, MAGNAFICI, EMERSON, DRAKE, BARE, JOERS, MURPHY, KRUG, PENTERMAN, DUCHOW, DITTRICH, SCHRAA, PALMERI and S. JOHNSON. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: proclaiming January 2024 as Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month in the state of Wisconsin.

Whereas, human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, obtained, or transported through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation, commercial sex acts, or labor exploitation; and

Whereas, human traffickers disproportionately target at-risk populations, including individuals who have experienced or been exposed to other violence, such as child abuse and maltreatment and community violence, and those who are disconnected from support networks, such as runaway and homeless youth, unaccompanied minors, and persons displaced by natural disasters; and

Whereas, since 2007, more than 82,000 total cases of human trafficking have been reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline; and

Whereas, the average age a trafficking victim enters the sex trade in the United States is between 12 and 14 years old; and

Whereas, in 2022, an estimated one-out-of-six endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely child sex trafficking victims; and

Whereas, a 2019 U.S. Department of State report found that advocates reported a growing trend of traffickers targeting individuals with disabilities and an increase in the use of social media platforms to recruit and advertise victims of human trafficking; and

Whereas, human trafficking has been reported in all 72 counties in this state, and it is a crime found in rural, urban, and suburban communities; and

Whereas, human trafficking is modern-day slavery, a practice that is in direct opposition to the fundamental principles of liberty and human rights upon which our nation was founded; and

Whereas, to combat human trafficking in our state, our citizens must be aware of the realities of human trafficking, educated to recognize victims of human trafficking, and dedicated to stopping it; and

Whereas, a resolution passed by the U.S. Senate on June 22, 2007, has forever marked January 11 as a day of awareness and vigilance for the countless victims and survivors of human trafficking around the world; and

Whereas, Wisconsin has zero tolerance for human trafficking, and eliminating human trafficking is a goal shared by all Americans who believe in freedom and liberty for all people; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of

the Wisconsin Legislature proclaim January 2024 as Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month in the state of Wisconsin.

(END)