



2025 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 3

February 6, 2025 - Introduced by Representatives O'CONNOR, KITCHENS, BILLINGS, STUBBS, SNYDER, SINICKI, NOVAK, GUNDRUM, DITTRICH, SPIROS, GOEBEN, HURD, VINING, SPAUDE, STEFFEN, RIVERA-WAGNER, BARE, PRADO, MURSAU, FITZGERALD, KNODL, MURPHY, GOODWIN, KIRSCH, TENORIO, BRILL, CALLAHAN, DUCHOW, MIRESE, BEHNKE, FRANKLIN, ALLEN, KREIBICH, NEDWESKI, SNODGRASS, ARNEY, MADISON, STROUD, PALMERI, TUSLER, ANDERSON, SUBECK, HONG, EMERSON, ROE, RODRIGUEZ, JOERS, B. JACOBSON, DESANTO, WITTKE, J. JACOBSON, PHELPS, HAYWOOD, JOHNSON, ORTIZ-VELEZ, MCCARVILLE and MAYADEV, cosponsored by Senators L. JOHNSON, JAMES, JACQUE, KEYESKI, WIRCH, CARPENTER, DRAKE, RATCLIFF, HESSELBEIN, TESTIN, TOMCZYK, HABUSH SINYKIN, WALL, FEYEN, WANGGAARD, SPREITZER, DASSLER-ALFHEIM and LARSON. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming January 2025 as Human Trafficking Awareness and
2 Prevention Month in the state of Wisconsin.

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

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

11 Whereas, since 2007, more than 100,000 total cases of human trafficking have
12 been reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline; and

13 Whereas, the average age a trafficking victim enters the sex trade in the
14 United States is between 12 and 15 years old; and

1 Whereas, in 2023, an estimated one-out-of-six endangered runaways reported
2 to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely child sex
3 trafficking victims; and

4 Whereas, a 2024 U.S. Department of State report found that advocates
5 reported a growing trend of traffickers targeting individuals with disabilities and
6 an increase in the use of social media platforms to recruit and advertise victims of
7 human trafficking; and

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

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

13 Whereas, many nonprofit organizations are working to raise awareness and
14 combat human trafficking while collaborating with law enforcement to provide
15 critical resources to victims, including safe housing, health care, counseling, job
16 training, rehabilitation, clothing, personal care items, and hope; and

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

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

23 Whereas, Wisconsin has zero tolerance for human trafficking, and eliminating

1 human trafficking is a goal shared by all Americans who believe in freedom and
2 liberty for all people; now, therefore, be it

3 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of
4 the Wisconsin Legislature proclaim January 2025 as Human Trafficking
5 Awareness and Prevention Month in the state of Wisconsin.

6 (END)