

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.213

Rep. Whiteford offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare January 2022 as Human Trafficking
2 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Human trafficking is a crime under international,
4 federal, and state law, and one of the fastest-growing crimes in
5 the world, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable
6 form of crime, according to the U.S. Department of State; and

7 Whereas, Human trafficking is defined as the recruitment,
8 harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of persons for
9 labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for
10 the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt
11 bondage, or slavery, and the inducement of a commercial sex act by
12 force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to

1 perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; and

2 Whereas, Human trafficking is not exclusive to just one
3 gender. All victims of human trafficking deserve equal respect and
4 the opportunity to report that trauma without judgement; and

5 Whereas, To combat this form of modern-day slavery, the people
6 of the United States, the federal government, and state and local
7 governments must work to better understand the complex nature of
8 this problem; and

9 Whereas, According to Rights4Girls, a human rights
10 organization working to end gender-based violence in the U.S.,
11 African-American girls are disproportionately affected; Latino and
12 Asian-American girls also experience unacceptable and
13 disproportionate levels of trafficking; and

14 Whereas, We applaud the special unit designated to combat
15 human trafficking in our state's Attorney General's office and more
16 must be done statewide to combat this growing trend. State and
17 local law enforcement agencies must demonstrate a proactive
18 approach to increasing awareness and prevention protocols and
19 establishing community outreach efforts with civic, ecumenical, and
20 community groups to keep our citizens safe; now, therefore, be it

21 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
22 this legislative body declare January 2022 as Human Trafficking
23 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We support and commend
24 all work by individuals, businesses, organizations, and governing
25 bodies for their important contributions to this commitment to end
26 human trafficking; and be it further

27 Resolved, That the members of this legislative body encourage
28 all Michiganders to use this month as an opportunity to educate
29 themselves about human trafficking and be aware of how prevalent it

1 is in our state; and be it further

2 Resolved, That we stand in full support of those victims of
3 human trafficking who have yet to escape or be found and liberated;
4 and be it further

5 Resolved, That we offer the gravest concern for those who have
6 had loved ones become victims to human trafficking; and be it
7 further

8 Resolved, That we commend those individuals who have been
9 victims of trafficking and have survived to overcome the atrocity;
10 and be it further

11 Resolved, That we support and commend all work by individuals,
12 businesses, organizations, and governing bodies for their important
13 contributions themselves to putting an end to human trafficking.