

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Relating to recognition of January as sex trafficking awareness month.

Whereas, sex trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery in which psychological and physical coercion is used to force people to engage in commercial sex acts; and

Whereas, the Justice Department has identified St. Louis as a major hub of sex trafficking; and

Whereas, the average victim of sex trafficking is thirteen years old; and

Whereas, sex traffickers have been luring young girls and boys into the sex trade industry through the internet or by meeting adolescents on the street through promises of a better life, a place to stay, friendship, and money; and

Whereas, these girls and boys, once lured into the sex trade industry, often suffer beatings, rape, are held in isolation in deplorable conditions, and are forbidden from leaving their room unless they're with their trafficker; and

Whereas, the average person in the commercial sex industry only lives for seven years after being lured into the trade; and

Whereas, federal officials estimate there are hundreds of thousands of victims of sex trafficking; and

Whereas, children from all socioeconomic backgrounds are at risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking; and

Whereas, increasing awareness of the problem of sex trafficking in Missouri will help people identify victims of sex trafficking and educate parents, teachers, and children of the dangers and risks in order to prevent more people from becoming victims:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby designate January as sex trafficking awareness month in Missouri; and

Be It Further Resolved that the General Assembly encourages and recommends that people of the State of Missouri observe sex trafficking awareness month through appropriate activities to increase awareness of sex trafficking; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to send properly inscribed copies of this resolution to the Governor for his approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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