

No. R-033. House concurrent resolution recognizing January 2011 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.26)

Offered by: Representatives Ram of Burlington, Grad of Moretown, Larson of Burlington, Aswad of Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Brennan of Colchester, Buxton of Royalton, Christie of Hartford, Courcelle of Rutland City, Davis of Washington, Edwards of Brattleboro, Fisher of Lincoln, Font-Russell of Rutland City, Frank of Underhill, Haas of Rochester, Lippert of Hinesburg, Munger of South Burlington, Pearson of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Savage of Swanton, Shand of Weathersfield, Sweaney of Windsor, Webb of Shelburne, Weston of Burlington, Wright of Burlington and Yantachka of Charlotte

Offered by: Senator Baruth

Whereas, the principle of individual human rights was embedded in the Vermont Constitution of 1777, which explicitly abolished adult slavery, and in 1786 Vermont adopted a law prohibiting the sale of slaves out of state, and

Whereas, in the Civil War era, Vermont became a link in the Underground Railroad, and

Whereas, in the 21st century, human trafficking, a form of slavery that is different from but certainly reminiscent of the enslavement of African Americans, persists in the form of sex and labor trafficking, and according to the Polaris Project, an international organization “committed to combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery,” there are at least 12 million and possibly as many as 27 million individuals enslaved worldwide due to human trafficking, and

Whereas, human trafficking entails both international sex and labor trafficking and on the federal level is proscribed under the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and

Whereas, in 2009, the Vermont General Assembly enacted 13 V.S.A. § 2635a, entitled “Sex trafficking of children; sex trafficking of any person by force,” so as to further expand on 13 V.S.A. § 2635, the previously existing slave trafficking statute, and

Whereas, in 2010, the General Assembly enacted Act 85, “An act relating to human trafficking,” that created a human trafficking task force to develop recommendations to address the problem of human trafficking in Vermont and also directed the law enforcement advisory board to develop recommendations on how to combat this illegal activity, and

Whereas, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center’s National Hotline has received calls, although small in number, from Vermont, and

Whereas, in order to focus attention on the human trafficking crisis, January 2011 is being recognized in a number of jurisdictions as Human Trafficking Awareness Month, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes January 2011 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to James Dold, Policy Counsel at the Polaris Project in Washington, D.C., and to the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services.