

SENATE RESOLUTION

8658

By Senators Torres, McCune, and Wagoner

1       WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a heinous crime that harms millions  
2 of men, women, and children worldwide including their family and  
3 friends; and

4       WHEREAS, It is an egregious violation of human rights and a  
5 modern form of slavery that impacts countless individuals worldwide  
6 through forced labor, fraud, physical harm, and sexual exploitation;  
7 and

8       WHEREAS, President Barack Obama declared January to be National  
9 Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in 2010 to show the  
10 nation's commitment to fighting and protecting victims against human  
11 trafficking domestically and internationally; and

12       WHEREAS, Including efforts to educate the public by raising  
13 awareness on how society can help aid in hindering human trafficking  
14 and the sexual exploitation of minors; and

15       WHEREAS, Human trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal  
16 industry in the world today, according to the United States  
17 Department of Justice, which estimates that between 14,000 and 17,000  
18 people are trafficked into the country each year; and

19       WHEREAS, In Washington, each year over two hundred cases  
20 involving human trafficking were recorded, according to the National  
21 Human Trafficking Hotline; and

1       WHEREAS, Washington is currently ranked eleventh among the  
2 states for human trafficking with a national average of one  
3 hundred sixty-nine trafficking cases; and

4       WHEREAS, In 2003, Washington was the first state to pass a  
5 law criminalizing human trafficking, making it a felony to  
6 recruit, harbor, transport, or obtain any person for labor or  
7 other services using force or fraud; and

8       WHEREAS, Later in 2008 as a response to the lack of these  
9 crimes being recognized, the Attorney General's Office issued a  
10 roundtable of legislative, law enforcement, and social service  
11 leaders experienced in the issue to find viable approaches to  
12 better addressing this serious issue; and

13       WHEREAS, Washington's international border with Canada makes  
14 it a major hotspot for trafficking, with sources estimating that  
15 the border contributes about fifteen hundred to two thousand  
16 victims annually; and

17       WHEREAS, Major seaports and airports, as well as rural areas  
18 and cross-state highways, are contributing factors associated  
19 with increased risk of trafficking; and

20       WHEREAS, The Port of Seattle commissioners and specific  
21 airlines signed a pledge to help prevent human trafficking by  
22 educating their employees and training them on what to look for  
23 regarding the traffickers and their victims; and

24       WHEREAS, Trafficking has been a major problem in cities such  
25 as Seattle, the Yakima Valley, and the Tri-Cities; and

26       WHEREAS, January has been designated nationally as a time to  
27 create awareness of issues related to human trafficking and use  
28 education to help prevent these crimes and address the needs of  
29 victims;

30       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
31 Senate recognize the importance of education regarding and  
32 awareness of the issue of human trafficking and the state and  
33 federal resources available to support victims.

34 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,  
35 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
36 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8658,  
37 adopted by the Senate

1 January 22, 2024

2 SARAH BANNISTER

3 Secretary of the Senate