

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4614, by Representatives Zahn, Leavitt, Simmons, Callan, Thai, Walen, Ryu, Berg, Parshley, Fosse, Burnett, Duerr, Nance, and Macri

1       WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a crime that involves the use of  
2 force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, provide, or  
3 obtain a person for the purposes of labor or sexual exploitation; and

4       WHEREAS, Human trafficking is also a significant public health  
5 and human rights issue, inflicting trauma on individuals, families,  
6 and communities while undermining safety, dignity, and fundamental  
7 freedoms; and

8       WHEREAS, The United States Department of Homeland Security  
9 estimates tens of millions of people worldwide are subjected to  
10 modern day slavery, with cases occurring across Washington state; and

11       WHEREAS, Vulnerable populations—including those experiencing  
12 poverty, homelessness, substance use disorders, mental health  
13 challenges, survivors of abuse, those identifying as LGBTQIA+, and  
14 Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, including individuals  
15 born outside the United States, regardless of immigration status—are  
16 at increased risk of trafficking and exploitation; and

17       WHEREAS, The ongoing exploitation and trafficking of people is  
18 deeply rooted in the legacy of colonization and slavery, systems that  
19 historically commodified and oppressed human beings, particularly  
20 people of African descent, Indigenous people, and other marginalized  
21 communities, and continue to perpetuate inequality, vulnerability,  
22 and the exploitation of individuals to this day; and

1       WHEREAS, Public awareness and education are essential to  
2 preventing human trafficking, protecting victims, and ensuring  
3 justice for those affected; and

4       WHEREAS, Every year since 2010, the President of the United  
5 States has designated the month of January as "National Human  
6 Trafficking Prevention Month" to bring attention to this critical  
7 issue;

8       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House  
9 of Representatives recognize January as Human Trafficking Awareness  
10 Month and reaffirm its commitment to eradicating human trafficking  
11 through education, policy, and community engagement.

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13               I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of  
14 Resolution 4614 adopted by the House of Representatives  
15   January 31, 2025  
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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk