

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 138

BY REPRESENTATIVES HODGES, ANDERS, ARNOLD, BARRAS, BARROW, BILLIOT, WESLEY BISHOP, BROADWATER, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, COX, CROMER, DIXON, DOVE, EDWARDS, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAROFALO, GEYMANN, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUINN, HARRIS, HARRISON, HAZEL, HENRY, HILL, HOFFMANN, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, IVEY, KATRINA JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JOHNSON, JONES, KLECKLEY, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LORUSSO, MILLER, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, PIERRE, PONTI, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RITCHIE, SCHEXNAYDER, SIMON, SMITH, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, THOMPSON, WHITNEY, WILLMOTT, AND WOODRUFF AND SENATORS AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, CLAITOR, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, LAFLEUR, LONG, MILLS, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to raise awareness of the issue of human trafficking and sex trafficking to abolish this modern-day slavery and continue to aid Nigeria in the plight of finding the two-hundred seventy-six remaining missing girls.

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2014, three hundred twenty-nine girls were kidnapped from their school in Chibok, Nigeria, by dozens of gunmen who stormed the girls' dormitories while they were sleeping; and

WHEREAS, in a region where only four percent of girls complete secondary schooling, the kidnapped girls were the best and the brightest; looking forward to bright futures as global leaders, teachers, or lawyers; and

WHEREAS, the girls were abducted by a radical Islamic group called Boko Haram, which in English, means "Western education is sinful"; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2012, in testimony before United States Congress, the director of national intelligence, James Clapper, included Boko Haram in his worldwide threat assessment, stating, "There are also fears that Boko Haram, elements of which have

engaged al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb, is interested in hitting Western targets, such as the United States Embassy and hotels frequented by Westerners"; and

WHEREAS, the United States has offered a seven million dollar bounty for the group's elusive leader, Abubakar Shekau; and

WHEREAS, the Department of State designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in November 2013, recognizing the threat posed by the group's large-scale and indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including women and children; and

WHEREAS, fifty-three girls were able to escape and have described their experiences as extremely distressing; and

WHEREAS, concern is growing about the safety of those who are still missing; and

WHEREAS, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan has accepted offers from the United States of military personnel, law enforcement officials, and other experts; and

WHEREAS, Boko Haram's militant leader, Abubakar Shekau, released a video in which he expresses his abhorrence of Western education, saying that the girls should be married instead of being educated and further claims that he will sell the women as he has been commanded by Allah; and

WHEREAS, Abubakar Shekau referred to the girls as slaves and stated that he plans to kidnap more girls; and

WHEREAS, United Nations and the United States have both stressed an absolute prohibition against slavery and sexual slavery in international law, making these actions crimes against humanity; and

WHEREAS, the White House press secretary has said that appropriate action must be taken to locate and to free these young women before they are trafficked or killed; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has taken a most aggressive stand to abolish and condemn slavery among women in Louisiana and worldwide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to raise awareness of human trafficking and sex trafficking to abolish this modern-day slavery and continue to aid Nigeria in the plight of finding the remaining two hundred seventy-six missing girls.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE