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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 35 Session of 2013

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INTRODUCED BY CLYMER, SCHLOSSBERG, MICOZZIE, SCAVELLO, VEREB, MCGEEHAN, AUMENT, B. BOYLE, YOUNGBLOOD, SAYLOR, ROSS, KAUFFMAN, FABRIZIO, KNOWLES, HESS, NEILSON, BISHOP, MILLARD, STERN, DEAN, HARHART, BRADFORD, SWANGER, V. BROWN, DAVIDSON, BAKER, MARSICO, MACKENZIE, GOODMAN, LONGIETTI, O'NEILL, HICKERNELL, GILLEN, WATSON, TALLMAN, GROVE, KORTZ, MCCARTER, THOMAS, GIBBONS, PETRI, R. BROWN, MILNE, SANTARSIERO, DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, FLECK, MATZIE, MIRABITO, FREEMAN, MURT, GABLER AND GRELL, JANUARY 23, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JANUARY 23, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 11, 2013, as "National Human Trafficking  
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a tradition of advancing  
6 fundamental human rights; and

7 WHEREAS, It is imperative to eliminate human trafficking,  
8 including early or forced marriage, commercial sexual  
9 exploitation, forced labor, labor obtained through debt bondage,  
10 involuntary servitude, slavery and slavery by descent; and

11 WHEREAS, To combat human trafficking in this Commonwealth and  
12 globally, the people of Pennsylvania and State and local  
13 governments must be aware of the realities of human trafficking  
14 and must be dedicated to stopping this contemporary

1 manifestation of slavery; and

2 WHEREAS, Efforts shall be made to actively oppose all  
3 individuals, groups, organizations and nations who support,  
4 advance or commit acts of human trafficking and to work to end  
5 human trafficking around the world through education; and

6 WHEREAS, Victims of human trafficking need support in order  
7 to escape and to recover from the physical, mental, emotional  
8 and spiritual trauma associated with their victimization; and

9 WHEREAS, Human traffickers use many physical and  
10 psychological techniques to control their victims, including the  
11 use of violence or threats of violence against the victim or the  
12 victim's family, isolation from the public, isolation from the  
13 victim's family and religious or ethnic communities, language  
14 and cultural barriers, shame, control of the victim's  
15 possessions, confiscation of passports and other identification  
16 documents and threats of arrest, deportation or imprisonment if  
17 the victim attempts to reach out for assistance or to leave; and

18 WHEREAS, Although laws to prosecute perpetrators of human  
19 trafficking and to assist and protect victims of human  
20 trafficking have been enacted in the United States, awareness of  
21 the issues surrounding human trafficking by those people most  
22 likely to come into contact with victims is essential for  
23 effective enforcement because the techniques that traffickers  
24 use to keep their victims enslaved severely limit self-  
25 reporting; and

26 WHEREAS, The effort by individuals, businesses, organizations  
27 and governing bodies to promote the observance of "National  
28 Human Trafficking Awareness Day" on January 11 of each year  
29 represents one of the many examples of the ongoing commitment to  
30 raise awareness of and to actively oppose human trafficking;

1 therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the goals  
3 and ideals of observing "National Human Trafficking Awareness  
4 Day" on January 11, 2013, and all other efforts to raise  
5 awareness of and opposition to human trafficking; and be it  
6 further

7       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize January  
8 11, 2013, as "National Human Trafficking Awareness Day" in  
9 Pennsylvania.