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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2010 TO BE "NATIONAL SLAVERY AND
HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Giannini, Fox, Fellela, DaSilva, and Messier

Date Introduced: January 06, 2010

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The United States was founded on the principle that all people are born with
2 an unalienable right to freedom—an ideal that has driven the engine of American progress
3 throughout our country’s history; and

4 WHEREAS, As a Nation, Americans have known moments of great darkness and greater
5 light; and dim years of chattel slavery illuminated and brought to an end by President Lincoln’s
6 actions and a painful Civil War; and

7 WHEREAS, Today, the darkness and inhumanity of enslavement still subsists, with
8 thousands of people within the United States and millions of people worldwide held in compelled
9 service; and

10 WHEREAS, During National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, it is
11 vital that Rhode Islanders unite with people across the nation to acknowledge that forms of
12 slavery still exist in the modern era, and recommit ourselves to stopping the human traffickers
13 who ply this horrific trade; and

14 WHEREAS, As the United States continues the fight to deliver on the promise of
15 freedom to all people, we commemorate the Emancipation Proclamation, which became effective
16 on January 1, 1863, and the 13th Amendment, which was sent to the states for ratification on
17 February 1, 1865; and

18 WHEREAS, The victims of modern slavery have many faces. They are men and
19 women, adults and children. Yet, all are denied basic human dignity and freedom. Victims can

1 be abused in their own countries, or find themselves far from home and vulnerable; and

2 WHEREAS, Whether they are trapped in forced sexual or labor exploitation, human
3 trafficking victims cannot walk away, but are held in service through force, threats, and fear. All
4 too often suffering from horrible physical and sexual abuse, it is hard for them to imagine that
5 there might be a place of refuge; and

6 WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders must join with people across the Nation and the global
7 community to provide that safe haven by protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers. With
8 improved victim identification, medical and social services, training for first responders, and
9 increased public awareness, the men, women, and children who have suffered this scourge can
10 overcome the bonds of modern slavery, receive protection and justice, and successfully reclaim
11 their rightful independence; and

12 WHEREAS, Fighting modern slavery and human trafficking is a shared responsibility;
13 now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
15 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims the month of January 2010 to be “National Slavery and
16 Human Trafficking Prevention Month” in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby acknowledges and commends
18 the many fronts in the ongoing battle for civil rights—including the efforts of Federal Agencies;
19 state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners; international partners; nonprofit social service
20 providers; and private industry and nongovernmental organizations around the world who are
21 working to end human trafficking; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby urges all Rhode Islanders to
23 educate themselves about all forms of modern slavery and the signs and consequences of human
24 trafficking to end this most serious, ongoing criminal civil rights violation. We must all accept
25 the vital role we can play in ending modern slavery; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
27 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Eric H. Holder, Attorney
28 General of the United States.

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