**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE JANUARY 2017 AS “HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF, AND OPPOSITION TO, HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ALL OF ITS FORMS.

Whereas, the United States “National Human Trafficking Awareness Day” is observed each January 11, as established by S.Con.Res.40 of the 110th Congress, and the month of January has been declared as “Human Trafficking Awareness and Slavery Prevention Month” by executive proclamation; and

Whereas, since 2012, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force has been tasked by the South Carolina Legislature with developing and hosting a human trafficking awareness event in January of each year. In addition, the task force has been given the responsibility of establishing a statewide initiative to raise awareness about, and to eradicate, human trafficking; and

Whereas, the people of South Carolina are committed to the protection of individual freedom, which necessitates the elimination of human trafficking in all its forms, including commercial sexual exploitation, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, forced marriage, forced labor, and all forms of slavery; and

Whereas, to successfully combat human trafficking, the people of South Carolina must be informed about the problem in its local and global context; and

Whereas, the effort by individuals, businesses, organizations, and governing bodies to promote the observance of Human Trafficking Awareness in January of each year represents one of the many examples of the ongoing commitment in the United States to raise awareness about this scourge of humanity and actively to combat it. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, declare January 2017 as “Human Trafficking Awareness Month” in South Carolina and encourage all efforts to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking in all of its forms.

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