

By: Thompson of Harris

H.R. No. 1751

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Nearly 36 million people are held in some form of
2 slavery today, whether through commercial sexual exploitation,
3 forced labor, bonded labor, or coerced service as child soldiers,
4 and human trafficking is the second most profitable global crime,
5 generating more than \$150 billion annually; and

6 WHEREAS, Four billion of the world's poorest people reside
7 outside the protection of the effective rule of law; they can be
8 readily exploited because of inept or corrupt public justice
9 systems, which permit not only human trafficking and modern
10 slavery, but also police brutality, rape, illegal land seizure, and
11 more; and

12 WHEREAS, Organizations such as International Justice
13 Mission, Polaris Project, and Shared Hope International work every
14 day to secure immediate victim rescue and aftercare, to bring
15 perpetrators to justice, and to ensure that public justice systems,
16 including law enforcement, courts, and laws, are effectively
17 protecting people from heinous crimes; and

18 WHEREAS, In the United States, human traffickers have
19 utilized Texas as a conduit, destination, and launching point for
20 human trafficking and modern slavery; however, the state is a
21 national leader in introducing and enforcing laws that address the
22 scourge of human trafficking and slavery, both within its borders
23 and in neighboring regions; moreover, the state secures
24 high-quality data to assess the problem through the unprecedented

1 Texas Slavery Mapping Project; and

2 WHEREAS, Texans from all walks of life, including students,
3 business owners, and pastors and other people of faith and
4 conscience, have demonstrated support for developing, funding, and
5 promoting effective antitrafficking and antislavery measures,
6 including rescue, safe houses, and aftercare for victims, as well
7 as prosecution and strong repercussions for perpetrators;
8 residents also advocate for educational initiatives and for the
9 enactment of antitrafficking and antislavery laws in the state, in
10 the nation, and throughout the developing world; now, therefore, be
11 it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize April 10, 2015, as Texas Ending Modern
14 Slavery Day and commend the officials and organizations dedicated
15 to helping victims and preventing the victimization of others.