

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 511**

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Texans from all walks of life, including students, business owners, and pastors and other people of faith

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and conscience, have demonstrated support for developing, funding, and promoting effective antitrafficking and antislavery measures, including rescue, safe houses, and aftercare for victims, as well as prosecution and strong repercussions for perpetrators; residents also advocate for educational initiatives and for the enactment of antitrafficking and antislavery laws in the state, in the nation, and throughout the developing world; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby recognize April 10, 2015, as Texas Ending Modern Slavery Day and commend the officials and organizations dedicated to helping victims and preventing the victimization of others.

Taylor of Galveston

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 9, 2015.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate