By: Hunter H.C.R. No. 125

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a serious and escalating problem in the United States, particularly in Texas; and

WHEREAS, A multibillion-dollar business, human trafficking is second only to drug dealing in criminal profitability and is the fastest-growing illegal enterprise, according to the Polaris Project, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that maintains the National Human Trafficking Resource Center; it is estimated that as many as 17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked into the United States each year and that the number of U.S. citizens trafficked within our own borders is even higher; and

WHEREAS, Texas is a major point of illegal entry into the United States; its large geographic size along with its demographics make the Lone Star State appealing to traffickers, who endeavor to blend into the population while exploiting their victims in forced labor and prostitution; and

WHEREAS, Although Texas has been recognized as a leader in the effort to end the scourge of human trafficking, eradication of this modern-day form of slavery is a difficult challenge, and every means of combating it should be explored; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives to create a joint interim committee to study the problem of human trafficking in Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including

findings and recommendations, to the 86th Texas Legislature before it convenes in January 2019.