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By:  Miller H.C.R. No. 35

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are more than 300,000 victims of human trafficking in the State of Texas, and nearly 80,000 of those are identified as minors; and

WHEREAS, The number of cases reported rose 82 percent from 2015 to 2017, giving Texas the second-highest number of human trafficking reports in the country, with explosive growth occurring across all segments of our society in every ethnicity, gender, and age, regardless of immigration, socioeconomic, or family status; and

WHEREAS, Victims of human trafficking experience a severe and complex trauma that is recognized by the medical community as one of the most challenging to effectively treat; it requires long-term counseling, therapy, and often inpatient treatment, which is complicated by the fact that relatively few facilities in Texas are trained in trauma-informed care; and

WHEREAS, The health problems engendered by human trafficking are a crisis that impacts a substantial number of Texans in communities across the state; sexual exploitation of women and children account for 84 percent of cases and cost the state an estimated $6.6 billion in additional physical and mental health care and social services; this also creates additional strain on our health care and law enforcement systems; and

WHEREAS, Gangs and cartels have combined drug and human trafficking operations to become a primary controlling influence in both, with the traffickers involved proving to be some of the most dangerous and violent criminals to whom thousands more innocent victims fall prey each year; and

WHEREAS, All forms of human trafficking are criminal acts, and it is imperative that this issue be appropriately addressed so that we may bring an end to this atrocious crime and help survivors to move forward with their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby recognize human trafficking as a public health issue.