

By: Miller

H.C.R. No. 35

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

3 WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are more than 300,000
4 victims of human trafficking in the State of Texas, and nearly
5 80,000 of those are identified as minors; and

6 WHEREAS, The number of cases reported rose 82 percent from
7 2015 to 2017, giving Texas the second-highest number of human
8 trafficking reports in the country, with explosive growth occurring
9 across all segments of our society in every ethnicity, gender, and
10 age, regardless of immigration, socioeconomic, or family status;
11 and

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

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

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

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

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