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By:  Stucky H.R. No. 114

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is an insidious crime that exploits the most vulnerable members of society, robbing victims of their freedom and dignity and weakening the very foundation of our communities; and

WHEREAS, As defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, human trafficking primarily occurs in the form of sex or labor trafficking, which may be compelled through the use of force, threats, deception, or other means of coercion; and

WHEREAS, Although anyone can fall victim to this crime, certain populations are at higher risk due to a lack of prevention and services, including boys and young men, people who have been affected by sexual violence or prior abuse, people experiencing poverty, homelessness, or unstable living conditions, and individuals who are systemically marginalized and underserved; victims can be trafficked in person and online, in industries such as food service and construction, and by both strangers and people they know, including intimate partners, parents, and other family members; and

WHEREAS, The keys to preventing human trafficking include raising awareness and building resilience within our communities, reducing social inequities, and addressing the social determinants of health in underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking requires a coordinated, community-wide response, and one of the organizations working to serve human trafficking victims in North Texas is Bob's House of Hope in Argyle, which was founded by Robert "Bob" Williams in 2021; Bob's House of Hope is the first safe house in the country dedicated to adult male survivors of sex trafficking, and it endeavors to provide person-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally and linguistically appropriate care, along with other resources to help these victims attain education and employment and rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a violation of the fundamental rights that are owed to every man, woman, and child, and the observance of Human Trafficking Prevention Month calls on all of us to affirm our commitment to preventing and responding to human trafficking in our communities and to ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of human trafficking survivors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize January 2023 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month and encourage all Texans to learn more about human trafficking and the ways they can help the victims of this terrible crime.