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SR-70 (2019-2020)

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ENROLLED JANUARY 31, 2020

PASSED IN SENATE JANUARY 30, 2020

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2019–2020 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE RESOLUTION

NO. 70

Introduced by Senators Atkins, Caballero, Durazo, Galgiani, Hurtado, Jackson, Leyva, Mitchell, Rubio, and Skinner

January 24, 2020

Relative to Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SR 70, Atkins.

WHEREAS, Beginning in 2010, each January has been designated by presidential proclamation to be National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. It is a crime that involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain a person for the purpose of labor or sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of State's 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report, 170 countries have made public commitments to the eradication of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated in 2016 that there were 40,300,000 victims of human trafficking globally; and

WHEREAS, Eighty-one percent of human trafficking victims are trapped in forced labor, 25 percent are children, and 75 percent are women and girls; and

WHEREAS, The ILO estimates that forced labor and human trafficking is a \$150-billion-a-year industry worldwide. Nine billion dollars of that is estimated to be in agriculture, including forestry and fishing; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, an estimated one out of every seven endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely to be child sex trafficking victims. Of those, 88 percent were in the care of social services or the foster system when they ran away; and

WHEREAS, More than two-thirds of sex trafficked children suffer additional abuse at the hands of their traffickers; and

WHEREAS, Women and children who have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation experience a significantly higher rate of infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as tuberculosis and permanent damage to the reproductive system; and

WHEREAS, California has one of the highest incidences of human trafficking in the nation. It is a top destination for traffickers because of its major harbors, airports, coastline, international border, economy, and immigrant population; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Bureau of Investigation crime analysis lists California and Nevada as having the highest rates of child prostitution in the western region of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The National Human Trafficking Hotline reported in 2018 that California is a primary location for human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Almost 52,000 total cases of human trafficking have been reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline since 2007, with the hotline receiving more than 150 calls per day; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, human trafficking has increased by 842 percent in the United States since 2007, with California leading the way with the largest increase in reported cases; and

WHEREAS, The number of cases of human trafficking reported to the Polaris BeFree Textline, an SMS-based hotline for victims and survivors of human trafficking and at-risk populations, increases every year; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes the significant moral and economic harm of forced labor and human trafficking to both the State of California and citizens across the globe, and that ignoring this problem is detrimental, not only to those enslaved, but also to society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature is committed to prioritizing its efforts in order to provide adequate resources and services to victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking affects people of all ages. It is necessary to remain aware of this constant modern form of slavery that is happening all around us and for California to take an active stance on preventing and eliminating human trafficking once and for all; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate proclaims January 2020 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in California in order to encourage greater awareness of human trafficking within the State of California, the United States of America, and internationally; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.