

SENATE RESOLUTION

8612

By Senators Torres, Dhingra, and L. Wilson

1       WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a horrendous crime that harms  
2 thousands of adults and children across the United States, as well as  
3 their families and loved ones; and

4       WHEREAS, Human trafficking subjects men, women, and children in  
5 the United States to forced labor, debt bondage, document servitude,  
6 and sexual abuse; and

7       WHEREAS, In 2010, President Obama designated the month of January  
8 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, to  
9 advocate for legislation to protect survivors and punish offenders,  
10 educate leaders, and raise awareness on ways the public can combat  
11 human trafficking; and

12       WHEREAS, Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, victimizing  
13 vulnerable populations by force or coercion; and

14       WHEREAS, Washington ranks thirteenth among the states for active  
15 cases in federal courts for human trafficking cases; and

16       WHEREAS, Reports show Washington is a prime location for human  
17 trafficking, due to its long international border, major seaports and  
18 airports, vast and remote rural areas, dependence on agriculture, and  
19 major cross-state freeways; and

20       WHEREAS, Recently Port of Seattle commissioners and Alaska and  
21 Delta Airlines signed a pledge to help combat human trafficking by  
22 promoting awareness and training employees at Seattle-Tacoma

1 International Airport to look for and recognize traffickers and their  
2 victims; and

3 WHEREAS, Reports from the United States National Center for  
4 Missing and Exploited Children show a 98.66 percent increase of  
5 online enticement reports in 2020 compared to 2019, due to greater  
6 online presence among students; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice Child  
8 Exploitation and Obscenity Section reports that twelve years old is  
9 the average age of entry into sex trade and pornography; and

10 WHEREAS, A report by the Modern Slavery Research Project found  
11 that one in five youth experiencing homelessness has been a victim of  
12 sex or labor trafficking; and

13 WHEREAS, Human trafficking has been a particularly prevalent  
14 concern as of late in Seattle, the Yakima Valley, and Tri-Cities; and

15 WHEREAS, Washington's Internet Crimes Against Children task  
16 force, which dates to 1998, is part of a nationwide effort and works  
17 with law enforcement agencies statewide to fight human traffickers;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Washington's attorney general maintains a website  
20 intended to serve as a hub for victims of human trafficking, with the  
21 address of [watraffickinghelp.org](http://watraffickinghelp.org); and

22 WHEREAS, In 2003, Washington was the first state to pass a law  
23 criminalizing human trafficking and continues to have the most  
24 stringent law in the country; and

25 WHEREAS, January serves as an ideal time to renew efforts to  
26 increase awareness of human trafficking, and understanding of how to  
27 identify and deter this scourge;

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
29 recognize the importance of education regarding and awareness of the  
30 issue of human trafficking and the state and federal resources  
31 available to support victims.

--- END ---