

Date of Hearing: January 12, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
HR 75 (Pellerin) – As Introduced January 5, 2026

SUBJECT: National Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

SUMMARY: Recognizes the month of January 2026 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) For more than two centuries, the United States has worked to protect human rights, promoting a just and free society and advancing the dignity of all human beings. The government continues to demonstrate serious and sustained efforts to address human trafficking.
- 2) According to the United States Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, human trafficking cases have been reported in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and United States territories.
- 3) Since 2018, the United States Department of Labor reports an increase of 69% of children being illegally employed and exploited, and in the last fiscal year, the department found that 835 companies it investigated employed more than 3,800 children in violation of federal labor laws.
- 4) The California Child Welfare Council found that anywhere from 50% to 80% of victims of commercial sexual exploitation, including child sex trafficking, are or were formerly involved with the child welfare system.
- 5) According to the United States Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, racial and ethnic minority groups, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and indigenous populations are extremely vulnerable to exploitation due to social, legal, and cultural marginalization. Studies show that Native American women and girls are victims of human trafficking at a much higher rate compared to the overall population.
- 6) In 2015, the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking was established by Congress and sits as the world's preeminent human trafficking advisory body. It is led by survivors of human trafficking and advises federal policy makers on antitrafficking policies.
- 7) According to the United States Department of State's 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report, meaningful inclusion of survivors as antitrafficking experts must be further integrated across global antitrafficking efforts and accepted as a norm.
- 8) Partnership between governments, multilateral organizations, and survivors of human trafficking not only improves antitrafficking efforts, but also dismantles the risk of misconceptions, shame, retraumatization, and reexploitation of survivors within their communities, empowers survivors, promotes equity within organizations, and reduces vulnerability to revictimization.

- 9) The State of California is dedicated to protecting victims of human trafficking and ensuring they are not themselves criminalized. And, the State of California commits to continuing to collaborate with skilled professionals at the local, state, and national levels conducting investigations, collaborations, and trainings, organizing public outreach, promoting awareness, and directly assisting victims of human trafficking.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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