

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8

Rep. Wendzel offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare January 2023 as Human Trafficking  
2 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, Human trafficking is a crime under international,  
4 federal, and state law, and one of the fastest-growing crimes in  
5 the world, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable  
6 form of crime, according to the U.S. Department of State; and

7           Whereas, Human trafficking is defined as the recruitment,  
8 harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of persons for  
9 labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for  
10 the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt  
11 bondage, or slavery, and the inducement of a commercial sex act by  
12 force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to

1 perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; and

2       Whereas, Human trafficking is not exclusive to just one  
3 gender. All victims of human trafficking deserve equal respect and  
4 the opportunity to report that trauma without judgement; and

5       Whereas, To combat this form of modern-day slavery, the people  
6 of the United States, the federal government, and state and local  
7 governments must work to better understand the complex nature of  
8 this problem; and

9       Whereas, According to Rights4Girls, a human rights  
10 organization working to end gender-based violence in the U.S.,  
11 African-American girls are disproportionately affected; Latino and  
12 Asian-American girls also experience unacceptable and  
13 disproportionate levels of trafficking; and

14       Whereas, We applaud the special unit designated to combat  
15 human trafficking in our State's Attorney General's Office and more  
16 must be done statewide to combat this growing trend. State and  
17 local law enforcement agencies must demonstrate a proactive  
18 approach to increasing awareness and prevention protocols and  
19 establishing community outreach efforts with civic, ecumenical, and  
20 community groups to keep our citizens safe; now, therefore, be it

21       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
22 this legislative body declare January 2023 as Human Trafficking  
23 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We support and commend  
24 all work by individuals, businesses, organizations, and governing  
25 bodies for their important contributions to this commitment to end  
26 human trafficking; and be it further

27       Resolved, That the members of this legislative body encourage  
28 all Michiganders to use this month as an opportunity to educate  
29 themselves about human trafficking and be aware of how prevalent it

1 is in our state; and be it further

2 Resolved, That we stand in full support of those victims of  
3 human trafficking who have yet to escape or be found and liberated;  
4 and be it further

5 Resolved, That we offer the gravest concern for those who have  
6 had loved ones become victims to human trafficking; and be it  
7 further

8 Resolved, That we commend those individuals who have been  
9 victims of trafficking and have survived to overcome the atrocity;  
10 and be it further

11 Resolved, That we support and commend all work by individuals,  
12 businesses, organizations, and governing bodies for their important  
13 contributions themselves to putting an end to human trafficking.