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A resolution by Supervisor Nicholson declaring January 2018 as Sex Trafficking Awareness Month, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, sex trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that exists throughout the United States and globally, with the International Labour Organization estimating that of the 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally, approximately 4.8 million are victims of sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS, sex traffickers use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will; and

WHEREAS, sex trafficking occurs in a range of venues including fake massage businesses, via online ads or escort services, in residential brothels, on the street or at truck stops, or at hotels and motels; and

WHEREAS, according to the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights, the average age of females trafficked into street prostitution in the United States is 12 to14; and

WHEREAS, sex trafficking spans all demographics, but a few risk factors increase susceptibility to victimization including: homelessness, runaway youth, and individuals who have experienced violence and trauma; and

WHEREAS, according to an article published in 2016 in *The Guardian*, the Chairperson of the Human Trafficking Task Force of Greater Milwaukee stated that sex trafficking is a major issue in Milwaukee County (the County) and the State of Wisconsin (the State) with the City of Milwaukee (the City) known as “the Harvard of pimp school,” and the State as a hub of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, in October 2017, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrested 82 people across the State as part of an annual sex trafficking sting that involves law enforcement across the country and aims to recover children that are being sex trafficked; and

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WHEREAS, according to the FBI, in 2015, the City tied for third in the nation in total number of juveniles recovered from the annual sex trafficking sting operation; and

WHEREAS, the State responded to the crisis by creating an Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force to develop a State-level cross-system, a comprehensive, Trauma-informed service response system for minors who are victims or at-risk of being victims of sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness of sex trafficking in the County is imperative; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Health and Human Needs, at its meeting of January 24, 2018, recommended adoption of File No. 18-150 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors declares January 2018 as Sex Trafficking Awareness Month.

ars
01/24/18
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