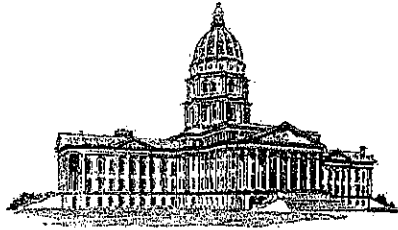


STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7522
tony.barton@house.ks.gov



1402 FRANKLIN STREET
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS 66048
(913) 680-5997

TONY BARTON
41ST DISTRICT

Human Trafficking Awareness Resolution: HR 6038

Human trafficking, a modern form of slavery, is based on recruiting, harboring and transporting people for the purpose of exploitation. More than 83% of human trafficking involves domestic victims, and the majority of these are children. That means most trafficking in the state of Kansas involves local children. They may be lured, forced or coerced into sex or labor exploitation. The U.S. Justice Department has identified Kansas as an originating state for human trafficking. Originating! That means traffickers are stealing our children, our people and not just moving someone else through our state.

Sex trafficking is a lucrative practice and involves any form of sexual exploitation such as prostitution, pornography or commercial sexual entertainment such as stripping or commercial sexual abuse. All sexually exploited children are victims even if no force or coercion is present.

Through the Internet, interactive video games, blogs and chat rooms, traffickers target children because they are vulnerable, gullible and there is a market for young victims. Studies show traffickers prey on children who are an average of 12-13 years old.

Labor trafficking can be found in a wide range of businesses and homes where men, women or children work as indentured servants.

Some Statistics:

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world second only to drug trafficking and with an estimated \$150 billion in illegal profits.

According to the International Labor Organization it is estimated that 20.9 million men, women and children are victims of human trafficking. Only .2% of victims are usually identified and 80% of them are women and children.

The average age of entry for children victimized by the U.S. sex trade industry is 12 years old. — US DEPT. of Justice

About 8 years ago my daughter Rebekah, many of you have seen her here with me, wandered outside our church doors one Sunday morning. She had previously been told not to go outside without an adult for safety reasons (at the time she was 5-6). What happened next has left one question in my mind. A white van without windows pulled into the church parking lot right where she was standing. And just when the van stopped in front of her a member of the church came pulling in where she and the van were located. I was told that as soon as they pulled up the van immediately reversed itself and screeched out of the parking lot. My question is what would have happened if this church member had not pulled in at the time he did? Would Rebekah be here today?

I think of the many parents who have lost children never to be seen again and the heartbreak they live with everyday, the struggle they have to hold onto hope that they will see their child again, and their pain that it may never happen.

I think of the children who are lost – the fear, the terror and the hopelessness they live with and the bondage they are under as these evil, soulless cowards take away their innocence and destroy their lives without conscience just for a dollar. This is evil at its core and it angers me to no end.

To not consider this resolution is to say their lives, the lives of these children, men and women do not matter. To remain silent is to be complicit.

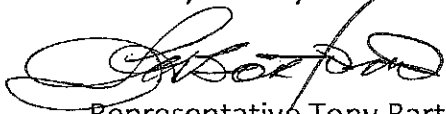
William Wilberforce said this:

"You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know."

C.D. Bonhoeffer said it like this:

"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

Thank you for your time and consideration and I will stand for questions.



Representative Tony Barton
41st District

References:

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children – What You Need To Know
Human Trafficking- A Modern Form of Slavery