

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 413

Encouraging States to consider adopting comprehensive legislation to combat human trafficking and slavery and recognizing the many efforts made to combat human trafficking and slavery.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 2004

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. LEAHY, and Mrs. CLINTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Encouraging States to consider adopting comprehensive legislation to combat human trafficking and slavery and recognizing the many efforts made to combat human trafficking and slavery.

Whereas it has been nearly 2 centuries since the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, and well over a century since the ratification of the 13th amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas most Americans would be shocked to learn that the institutions of slavery and involuntary servitude continue to persist today—not just around the world, but hidden in communities across the United States;

Whereas according to Federal Government estimates, approximately 800,000 human beings are bought, sold, or forced across the world's borders each year—including approximately 16,000 human beings into the United States each year—and are coerced into lives of forced labor or sexual servitude that amount to a modern-day form of slavery;

Whereas the 13th amendment to the Constitution of the United States, ratified in 1865, abolishes the institutions of slavery and involuntary servitude;

Whereas numerous provisions of chapter 77 of title 18 of the United States Code have criminalized slavery since 1909;

Whereas the late Senator Paul Wellstone joined in a bipartisan manner with Senator Sam Brownback and many other Senators and Representatives to advance legislation to strengthen those laws, leading to the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), which was signed into law by President Bill Clinton;

Whereas Congress made further bipartisan improvements to the law when it enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–193), which was signed into law by President George W. Bush;

Whereas the Department of Justice, under the leadership of its Civil Rights Division, has worked during the Clinton and Bush presidencies to strengthen anti-trafficking laws and to increase its own efforts to combat human trafficking and slavery in light of those recent bipartisan enactments;

Whereas the Trafficking in Persons Office of the Department of State continues to fight human trafficking around the world;

Whereas many nongovernmental organizations have made exceptional contributions to the prevention of human trafficking and to the care and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking;

Whereas survivors of human trafficking crimes risk their lives and the lives of their families to assist in the investigation and prosecution of their former captors;

Whereas effective prosecution of human trafficking crimes will not be possible unless adequate protections are offered to the survivors;

Whereas the fight to eliminate human trafficking and slavery requires the involvement of State and local law enforcement officials, as well as Federal law enforcement efforts;

Whereas the enactment of comprehensive State laws criminalizing human trafficking and slavery may be necessary to ensure that Federal efforts are accompanied by robust efforts at the State and local levels;

Whereas the States of Texas, Washington, Missouri, and Florida have recently enacted comprehensive State criminal laws against human trafficking and slavery;

Whereas the Department of Justice recently announced a comprehensive model State anti-trafficking criminal statute, and encouraged States to adopt such laws, at its first “National Conference on Human Trafficking”, held in Tampa, Florida; and

Whereas the Department of Justice’s model State anti-trafficking criminal statute is available at the Department’s

website, [http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/  
model\\_\\_state\\_\\_law.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/model__state__law.pdf): Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2           (1) supports the bipartisan efforts of Congress,  
3       the Department of Justice, and State and local law  
4       enforcement officers to combat human trafficking  
5       and slavery;

6           (2) strongly encourages State legislatures to  
7       carefully examine the Department of Justice’s model  
8       State anti-trafficking criminal statute, and to seri-  
9       ously consider adopting State laws combating human  
10      trafficking and slavery wherever such laws do not  
11      currently exist;

12          (3) strongly encourages State legislatures to  
13      carefully examine the Federal benefits and protec-  
14      tions for victims of human trafficking and slavery  
15      contained in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act  
16      of 2000 and the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-  
17      authorization Act of 2003, and to seriously consider  
18      adopting State laws that, at a minimum, offer these  
19      explicit protections to the victims; and

20          (4) supports efforts to educate and empower  
21      State and local law enforcement officers in the iden-  
22      tification of victims of human trafficking.

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