

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 29

Expressing the sense of the Congress that children trafficked in the United States be treated as victims of crime, and not as perpetrators.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 21, 2013

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. CRAPO), submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that children trafficked in the United States be treated as victims of crime, and not as perpetrators.

Whereas, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of American children are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation;

Whereas this risk is even greater for the up to 30,000 young people who are emancipated from foster care each year;

Whereas many of these children are girls previously or currently living in foster care or otherwise involved in the child welfare system;

Whereas flaws in the child welfare system in the United States, such as an over-reliance on group homes and bar-

riers to youth engaging in age-appropriate activities, contribute to children’s vulnerability to domestic sex trafficking;

Whereas the average age of entry into sex trafficking for girls is between just 12 and 14 years old;

Whereas many child sex trafficking victims have experienced previous physical and/or sexual abuse—vulnerabilities that traffickers exploit to lure them into a life of sexual slavery that exposes them to long-term abuse;

Whereas many child sex trafficking victims are the “lost girls”, standing around bus stops, in the runaway and homeless youth shelters, advertised online—hidden in plain view; and

Whereas many child sex trafficking victims who have not yet attained the age of consent are arrested and detained for juvenile prostitution or status offenses directly related to their exploitation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) finds that law enforcement, judges, child
4 welfare agencies, and the public should treat chil-
5 dren being trafficked for sex as victims of child
6 abuse;

7 (2) finds that every effort should be made to
8 arrest and hold accountable both traffickers and
9 buyers of children for sex, in accordance with Fed-
10 eral laws to protect victims of trafficking and State
11 child protection laws against abuse, in order to take

1 all necessary measures to protect our Nation's chil-
2 dren from harm;

3 (3) supports survivors of domestic sex traf-
4 ficking, including their efforts to raise awareness of
5 this tragedy and the services they need to heal from
6 the complex trauma of sexual violence and exploi-
7 tation;

8 (4) recognizes that most girls who are bought
9 and sold for sex in the United States have been in-
10 volved in the child welfare system, which has a re-
11 sponsibility to protect them and requires reform to
12 better prevent domestic child sex trafficking and aid
13 the victims of this tragedy;

14 (5) believes that the child welfare system should
15 identify, assess, and provide supportive services to
16 children in its care who are victims of sex traf-
17 ficking, or at risk of becoming such victims; and

18 (6) supports an end to demand for girls by de-
19 claring that our Nation's daughters are not for sale
20 and that any person who purchases a child for sex
21 should be appropriately held accountable with the
22 full force of law.

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