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Title: The Recognition and Protection of Human Trafficking Victims

Introduced by: Vanessa Stan for the Medical Student Section

Original Author: Nicolas K. Fletcher

Referred to: Reference Committee C

House Action: Adopted.

Whereas, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) (Public Law 106-386) was enacted to define severe forms of trafficking in persons, increase prosecution of human traffickers in the United States, and to protect victims, and subsequent reauthorizations have allocated over \$200 million to combat trafficking and provide social services for trafficking victims¹, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 14,500 to 17,500 people are trafficked in the United States each year, with another 600,000 to 800,000 trafficked around the world², and

Whereas, victims of trafficking are exploited for purposes of commercial sex, including prostitution, stripping, pornography, live-sex shows, involuntary servitude and debt bondage², and

Whereas, the majority of human trafficking victims are young children, teenagers, men, and women that are disproportionately from immigrant and minority populations and unaware of their civil rights², and

Whereas, victims of human trafficking are at increased risk for sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies, infectious diseases, chronic problems and post-traumatic stress disorder³, and

Whereas, physicians are often the first line of defense in domestic violence and child abuse cases, so too are they in the rare position to interact with human trafficking victims and have an important role identifying and helping trafficking victims⁴; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS ask the AMA to encourage editors and publishers of medical training literature to include human trafficking screening questions in recommendations and guidelines for conducting a medical history as put forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' campaign to rescue and restore the victims of human trafficking; and be it further

49 **RESOLVED: That MSMS ask the AMA to work with the U.S. Department**
50 **of Health and Human Services and law enforcement agencies to develop**
51 **guidelines for use in hospital and office settings in order to better identify**
52 **victims of human trafficking and to better address all of the victim's needs**
53 **including medical, legal and social aspects.**

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

¹ U.S. Department of State. (2012). "U.S Laws on Trafficking Persons." Available at <http://www.state.gov/i/tip/laws/>.
² U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (2008). "The Campaign to Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking." Available at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/campaign_kits/tool_kit_health/overview.html
³ Vijayarasa, Ramona, & Stein, Richard. (2010). Health Interventions for Trafficked Persons. JAMA, 304(3), 344-345.
⁴ American Medical News. (2005). "HHS Asks Doctors to Watch for Human Trafficking." Available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2005/03/14/hlsb0314.htm#w1>.