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3 Title: Curb Human Trafficking
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5 Introduced by: Joseph M. Beals, MD and Alireza Meysami, MD, for the Wayne County
6 Delegation
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8 Original Author: Joseph M. Beals, MD
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10 Referred To: Reference Committee B
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12 House Action: APPROVED AS AMENDED
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15 Whereas, more than 20 million persons worldwide are victims of forced labor and sexual
16 exploitation, and

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18 Whereas, human trafficking generates more than \$150 billion in annual profits, and

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20 Whereas, while educating the public and young people is extremely important, the problem
21 will not go away through education alone because the profits are so great, and

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23 Whereas, a trafficker can make thousands of dollars each year--this is our modern-day
24 slavery, and

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26 Whereas, human traffickers prey on vulnerable groups such as adolescents and young
27 adults with a history of child abuse, as well as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans gender, and queer
28 communities, and

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30 Whereas, 55 percent of the victims are women and girls, and

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32 Whereas, human trafficking is the third highest crime activity in the state of Michigan and
33 Michigan is ranked second in the country in human trafficking, and

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35 Whereas, over the past two years, the Wayne County Medical Society of Southeast Michigan
36 (WCMS) Foundation has circulated in schools and health organizations its video, "Stuck in Traffic,"
37 which is addressed to high school and college students about the danger signals of human
38 trafficking, and

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40 Whereas, human trafficking is identified as a major public health problem in an October
41 2016 *Annals of Internal Medicine* article addressing human trafficking, and

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43 Whereas, the Michigan Human Trafficking Commission has worked with the Michigan
44 Attorney General's office and WCMS, and has created a video on human trafficking which is part of
45 the state licensing process, "Human Trafficking: Making the Invisible Visible," and

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47 Whereas, states like Connecticut have passed human trafficking laws that define new
48 penalties for "buyers of sex," and

49 Whereas, other countries including Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Northern Ireland, Canada,
50 France, Ireland, and Israel have adopted the "Nordic Model" as "the best way to decrease demand,"
51 and

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53 Whereas, the "Nordic Model" approaches "human trafficking as a gender inequality and
54 human rights issue" and "focuses on criminalizing the act of buying sex, and at the same time
55 decriminalizing the selling of sex. In other words, the focus is on punishing the customer that buys
56 access to other people's bodies while keeping the people that are being sold safe and immune
57 from prosecution," and

58 Whereas, while educating the public on the evils of human trafficking is vital, as well as
59 education of young people about the signs of human trafficking, the problem will not be improved
60 to any extent unless the buyers of sex are discouraged from this activity; therefore be it

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62 RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate for the passage of human trafficking legislation which
63 toughens criminal and financial penalties for persons soliciting sexual activity for payment rather
64 than the victims of trafficking..

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67 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$16,000-\$32,000 for legislative advocacy.

Relevant MSMS Policy:

The Recognition and Protection of Human Trafficking Victims

MSMS supports training medical students, residents, and physicians to understand their role in treating patients who are victims of human trafficking.

Human Trafficking Education and Awareness

MSMS encourages the State Board of Education, Michigan secondary schools and colleges, as well as other influential organizations to increase awareness of human trafficking and increase awareness of signs of human trafficking.

Relevant AMA Policy:

Commercial Exploitation and Human Trafficking of Minors H-60.912

Our AMA supports the development of laws and policies that utilize a public health framework to address the commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors by promoting care and services for victims instead of arrest and prosecution.

Physicians Response to Victims of Human Trafficking H-65.966

1. Our AMA encourages its Member Groups and Sections, as well as the Federation of Medicine, to raise awareness about human trafficking and inform physicians about the resources available to aid them in identifying and serving victims of human trafficking.

Physicians should be aware of the definition of human trafficking and of resources available to help them identify and address the needs of victims.

The US Department of State defines human trafficking as an activity in which someone obtains or holds a person in compelled service. The term covers forced labor and forced child labor, sex trafficking, including child sex trafficking, debt bondage, and child soldiers, among other forms of enslavement. Although it's

difficult to know just how extensive the problem of human trafficking is, it's estimated that hundreds of thousands of individuals may be trafficked every year worldwide, the majority of whom are women and/or children.

The Polaris Project -

In addition to offering services directly to victims of trafficking through offices in Washington, DC and New Jersey and advocating for state and federal policy, the Polaris Project:

- Operates a 24-hour National Human Trafficking Hotline
- Maintains the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, which provides
 - a. An assessment tool for health care professionals
 - b. Online training in recognizing and responding to human trafficking in a health care context
 - c. Speakers and materials for in-person training
 - d. Links to local resources across the country

The Rescue & Restore Campaign -

The Department of Health and Human Services is designated under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to assist victims of trafficking. Administered through the Office of Refugee Settlement, the Department's Rescue & Restore campaign provides tools for law enforcement personnel, social service organizations, and health care professionals.

2. Our AMA will help encourage the education of physicians about human trafficking and how to report cases of suspected human trafficking to appropriate authorities to provide a conduit to resources to address the victim's medical, legal and social needs.

Sources:

1. <https://law.fiu.edu/2017/11/19/combating-business-human-trafficking-united-states-implementation-nordic-model/>
2. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, Vol. 165, No. 8 – 18, October 2016