

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

WHEREAS, our Nation was founded on the principles of equality and freedom for all, and the 13th Amendment was added to the Constitution making slavery illegal; and

WHEREAS, around the world and within the U.S., victims of modern slavery are deprived of the most basic right of freedom; and

WHEREAS, January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a time for us to rededicate ourselves to preventing and ending human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, victims of human trafficking are typically forced to work in various forms of labor exploitation including, but not limited to, commercial sex acts, drug processing and distribution, and other services induced through force, fraud or coercion; and

WHEREAS, there is no one type of victim, and men, women, and children from every background, race, gender identification, sexual orientation and economic status are vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, certain risk factors have been identified as placing youth at greater risk of victimization by exploitation such as being victims of trauma, coming from indigenous communities or having been engaged in the Child Welfare Services or juvenile delinquency systems; and

WHEREAS, many local individuals are unaware that human trafficking happens in Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking weakens our social fabric, increases violence and organized crime and debases our humanity; and

WHEREAS, community-based, tribal, and governmental organizations are working together to bring awareness to these issues, identify the impact on our youth and find strategic methods of intervention and prevention.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby call upon the citizens of Humboldt County to recognize the vital role we can all play in ending all forms of slavery and raising awareness through education and other efforts to stop human trafficking.

January 4, 2022

Virginia Bass, Chair

