

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all members of a society to root out evil where it exists and protect and defend the innocent from those who would prey upon them; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises worldwide and is on pace to surpass the drug trade in less than five years; and

WHEREAS, Ohio is not immune to this plague—each year over 1,000 Ohio children become victims of human trafficking, with the most common age being 13; and

WHEREAS, after signing House Bill 262 in June 2012, law enforcement was given the ability to not only go after the perpetrators of this heinous crime, but also to treat those who have been victimized so they can regain control of their lives. Now, the penalties against human traffickers have been raised and victims have gained access to programs that will provide protection and treatment; and

WHEREAS, it is important to provide more extensive training for first responders, to implement public awareness programs, and to educate Ohioans on the key warning signs of human trafficking and how to report suspicious activity to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, although human trafficking is prevalent not only in Ohio, but across the nation, we are able to utilize policies and education to slowly eliminate its hold on our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize January 11, 2013 as

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AWARENESS DAY**

throughout Ohio and encourage all Ohioans to raise awareness and advocate against human trafficking.

On this 11th day of January, 2013;



John R. Kasich
Governor

