

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 81

Expressing the sense of the Senate that children trafficked for sex in the United States should not be treated or regarded as child prostitutes because there is no such thing as a “child prostitute”, only children who are victims or survivors of rape and sex trafficking.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that children trafficked for sex in the United States should not be treated or regarded as child prostitutes because there is no such thing as a “child prostitute”, only children who are victims or survivors of rape and sex trafficking.

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that hundreds of thousands of children in the United States are at risk of being commercially exploited through sex trafficking;

Whereas children as young as 11 years old may be subjected to the commercial sex market as victims of sex trafficking;

Whereas many child victims of sex trafficking have experienced previous physical or sexual abuse, vulnerabilities that traffickers exploit to manipulate the victims into a life of sexual slavery through sex trafficking;

Whereas many child victims of sex trafficking are hidden in plain view, standing at bus stops, in runaway and homeless youth shelters, and advertised online; and

Whereas many child victims of sex trafficking 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*, That the Senate—

2 (1) encourages the Departments of Justice,
3 Health and Human Services, and Labor, and all
4 other relevant Federal entities, to treat children
5 trafficked for sex as victims or survivors of rape and
6 sex trafficking;

7 (2) supports efforts to arrest and prosecute sex
8 traffickers and buyers of children trafficked for sex,
9 in accordance with applicable State and Federal sex
10 trafficking statutes, and State child protection laws
11 against abuse and statutory rape, in order to take
12 all necessary measures to protect the most vulner-
13 able children in the United States;

14 (3) supports survivors of child sex trafficking,
15 including efforts to raise awareness of this tragedy

1 and of the comprehensive services necessary to heal
2 from the trauma of sexual violence and exploitation;

3 (4) urges lawmakers, law enforcement, the
4 media, and the public to reframe the trafficking of
5 children for sex as an act of violence against chil-
6 dren and not as mere vice, prostitution, or sex work,
7 because there is no such thing as a “child pros-
8 titute”, only children who are victims or survivors of
9 rape and sex trafficking; and

10 (5) supports an end to the demand for children
11 in the commercial sex market, by supporting efforts
12 to ensure that children in the United States are not
13 for sale and that any person who is trafficking or
14 purchasing a child for sex shall be punished under
15 the full force of the law.

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