

Resolution

MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION NUMBER 20-21-27

Recognizing

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

WHEREAS, the month of January is designated **National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month** to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery; and

WHEREAS, **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day** is observed on January 11, and is also #WearBlueDay, a day dedicated to wearing blue and raising awareness of the illegal practice of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, 2021 marks the 21-year anniversary of the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) which established a framework for combating human trafficking by establishing prevention programs, creating victim protections, and advancing prosecutions; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is growing at an alarming rate with California being one of the worst child sex trafficking areas because of its large immigrant population and Monterey County being highly vulnerable with its trucking and agricultural industries and gang-infused communities; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County Office of Education serves many high risk children that are connected to foster care and the juvenile justice system who have the potential to be targeted and exploited; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County Board of Education understands the importance of making citizens and youth aware of the realities of human trafficking, which can include early or forced marriage, commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, labor obtained through debt bondage, involuntary servitude, slavery and slavery by descent; and

WHEREAS, children forced into human trafficking and various forms of exploitation endure complex trauma that negatively affects their development, physical health, and academic engagement; causing chronic absenteeism, low academic performance, and school dropout; and

WHEREAS, a hidden crime that erodes personal dignity, human trafficking victims need support in order to escape and to recover from the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual trauma associated with their victimization; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County Office of Education will partner with the Monterey County Department of Social Services, Community Human Services, Rape Crisis Center, and Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) to host the 4th Annual Human Trafficking Symposium in March, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County Board of Education encourages school districts and schools to provide identification and prevention education programs within their schools and communities, and to participate in #WearBlueDay:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Monterey County Board of Education does hereby adopt Resolution Number 20-21-27 recognizing the month of January as **National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month** and January 11 as **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day**, and supports the many organizations and advocates that are creating prevention programs and awareness opportunities to educate students and families throughout Monterey County.

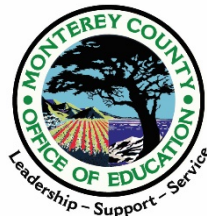
Passed and Adopted on the Eighteenth Day of November 2020

Ron Panziera, President

John McPherson, Vice President

Lupe Sanchez, Member

Janet Wohlgemuth, Member



Mary Claypool, Member

Harvey Kuffner, Member

Judy Pennycook, Member

Dr. Deneen Guss, Monterey County Superintendent of Schools