

2011 SESSION

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 65

Offered January 31, 2011

Commending Freedom 4/24.

Patron—Garrett

WHEREAS, Freedom 4/24, headquartered in Lynchburg, is commended for its efforts to rescue women and girls enslaved in the sex industry; and

WHEREAS, in many rural areas around the world, particularly in Southeast Asia, extreme poverty forces many girls and women to sacrifice their bodies and dignity in order to provide for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, many of these girls and women have endured horrific sexual, physical, and emotional abuse since a young age and lack the self-esteem, education, or financial means to escape the sex industry; and

WHEREAS, currently, the sex industry boasts an economic impact of \$27 billion a year in Thailand, and over 300,000 women are forced to work as prostitutes in one of the country's 60,000 sexual service centers; and

WHEREAS, in Bangkok's notorious red light district, customers can pay an establishment a "bar fee" of \$24 to purchase a girl or woman for the night; and

WHEREAS, Freedom 4/24 seeks to provide a pathway for girls and women to escape sexual servitude by supporting organizations that create relationships with them; Freedom 4/24 has established its own ministry, known as "Beginnings," which offers a safe house as part of this effort; and

WHEREAS, once a volunteer from Beginnings has formed a relationship with a girl or woman and senses that she is ready to leave the sex industry, Freedom 4/24 will pay her bar fee, freeing the woman or girl for 24 hours and taking her off the streets into a safe haven; and

WHEREAS, at the safe house, the exploited woman or girl will be shown a permanent route out of the sex industry through the provision of education, food, appropriate employment, and physical, emotional, and spiritual health care; and

WHEREAS, Freedom 4/24 seeks to empower and educate these women and girls in an effort to improve their lives and change the prevalent mentality in certain parts of the world that women and girls are disposable objects; and

WHEREAS, Freedom 4/24 provides a valuable service to these women and girls, opening their eyes to a new world of hope, safety, and self-esteem; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates commend Freedom 4/24 for its efforts to rescue women and girls enslaved in the sex industry; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Freedom 4/24 as an expression of the House of Delegates' appreciation and respect for the organization's dedication to helping women and girls.

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