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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1028

Offered February 23, 2009

Commending the Vietnamese-American Voters Association, Inc.

Patrons—Hull, Bulova and Ebbin; Senator: Petersen

WHEREAS, each year, the Department of State is required by law to report to the United States Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons in order to raise global awareness and spur foreign governments to take effective actions to counter all forms of trafficking in persons; and

WHEREAS, the Trafficking in Persons Office of the United States Department of State finds that human trafficking is the world's third-largest and fastest-growing criminal industry, accounting for more than \$22 billion annually in transactions around the world; and

WHEREAS, UNICEF has found that over 400,000 Vietnamese women and children are victims of human trafficking, accounting for 10 percent of the total number of worldwide human trafficking victims; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnamese-American Voters Association, Inc., is a nonprofit organization based in Northern Virginia that provides civic, social, cultural, and health services to Vietnamese-Americans; and

WHEREAS, part of the mission of the Vietnamese-American Voters Association, Inc., is to establish a public awareness forum in which local officials, nongovernmental agencies, community-based organizations, and the media can work together to formulate strategies and make recommendations on combating human trafficking in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnamese-American Voters Association, Inc., has partnered with other organizations to provide victims, especially women and children, with needed services and assistance and to reintegrate, rehabilitate, and restore human dignity to Vietnamese trafficking victims; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnamese-American Voters Association, Inc., has designated November 20, 2009, as Vietnam Anti-Trafficking Day in order to raise awareness of the problem and the policies needed to reintegrate, rehabilitate, and restore human dignity to Vietnamese trafficking victims; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Vietnamese-American Voters Association, Inc., for its efforts in designating November 20, 2009, as Vietnam Anti-Trafficking Day in order to abolish this modern-day form of slavery in Vietnam and elsewhere in the world; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to representatives of the Vietnamese-American Voters Association, Inc., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for the association's commitment to combating human trafficking in Vietnam.

INTRODUCED

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