



Signature Report

February 19, 2014

Motion 14080

Proposed No. 2014-0087.1

Sponsors Dunn, Upthegrove and Dembowski

1 A MOTION urging the Washington state Legislature to enact  
2 legislation that supports efforts to combat human trafficking and  
3 commercial sexual exploitation and legislation that protects and  
4 supports victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual  
5 exploitation.

6 WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which people  
7 profit from the control and exploitation of others, and

8 WHEREAS, as defined under federal law, victims of human trafficking include  
9 children involved in commercial sex trade, adults age eighteen or over who are coerced  
10 or deceived into commercial sex acts and anyone forced into different forms of "labor or  
11 services," such as domestic workers held in a home or farm workers forced to labor  
12 against their will, and

13 WHEREAS, human trafficking is considered to be one of the fastest growing  
14 criminal industries in the world, and

15 WHEREAS, human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of  
16 children are serious crime problems worldwide, in Washington state and in King County,  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, between three hundred and five hundred children will be bought and  
19 sold in King County this year, and

20 WHEREAS, the average age of entry into commercial sexual exploitation in the  
21 United States is thirteen years old, and

22 WHEREAS, children as young as eleven years old who have been commercially  
23 sexually exploited have been found in King County, and

24 WHEREAS, over ninety-five percent of labor and sex trafficking victims  
25 experience physical and sexual violence, and

26 WHEREAS, human traffickers lure and ensnare individuals into labor trafficking  
27 and sex trafficking situations using methods of control such as force, fraud or coercion,  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, human trafficking is a clandestine crime that thrives on secrecy and  
30 on the social and physical isolation of its victims, making identification of victims,  
31 traffickers and their networks extremely challenging, and

32 WHEREAS, the state of Washington has been described as a focal point for the  
33 recruitment, transportation and sale of people for labor, due in part to its abundance of  
34 ports, proximity to an international border, vast rural areas and dependency on  
35 agricultural workers, and

36 WHEREAS, Washington was the first state to criminalize human trafficking, in  
37 2003, and

38 WHEREAS, Washington state has some of the most comprehensive laws critical  
39 to the fight against human trafficking, punishing traffickers and supporting survivors, and  
40 is rated most outstanding by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center's Polaris  
41 Project and

42 WHEREAS, as traffickers become more sophisticated and clandestine, law  
43 enforcement requires additional laws to strengthen its response, and

44 WHEREAS, as victims of trafficking are in need of services and protection;

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

46 The King County council urges the Washington state Legislature to enact  
47 legislation that supports efforts to combat human trafficking and commercial sexual

48 exploitation and legislation that protects and supports victims of human trafficking and  
49 commercial sexual exploitation.  
50


Motion 14080 was introduced on 2/18/2014 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 2/18/2014, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert,  
Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr. Upthegrove  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Mr. Gossett

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None