



**STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

As Texans, our first priority should always be the safety and security of our communities. We often think that slavery is long gone, but sadly, many thousands fall victim to human trafficking each year. Victims of this illegal trade are often forced into hard labor or the sex trade. Human traffickers exploit their victims' hopes and dreams, promising better days and better lives but delivering them instead into a world that's nothing more than modern-day slavery.

During the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session, I was proud to sign legislation designating two or more acts of human trafficking as a first-degree felony. Offenders convicted of a second offense must now serve life without parole. I also approved legislation creating a new offense for compelling prostitution for adult and child victims and mandating tighter restrictions on parole and bond release. By sending a message to those who would commit this heinous offense that Texas will not stand for such flagrant exploitation, it is our sincerest hope that many incidences may be prevented.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the dangers of human trafficking, how to recognize the signs of possible instances of trafficking and support measures to prevent this heinous crime. With the support of the public, Texas will continue taking action to stop human trafficking and create a brighter future for the next generation.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim February 27, 2014, to be

**Human Trafficking Awareness Day**



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,  
I hereby affix my signature this the  
27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014.

*RICK PERRY*  
Governor of Texas