



**Yolo County Board of Education and
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools**

**Resolution #22/23-34
Human Trafficking Awareness Month (January 2023)**

WHEREAS, January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, a month designed to raise awareness about human trafficking issues and to support survivors; and

WHEREAS, commercial sexual exploitation of children is defined as any sexual activity involving a child in exchange of something of value, promise thereof, to the child or another person or persons; and

WHEREAS, commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth affects communities at worldwide, national and local levels; and

WHEREAS, California is one of the largest sites of human trafficking in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the California Child Welfare Council reports that the fast-growing criminal industry of commercial sexual exploitation affects 100,000-300,000 children a year nationally, with 11-14 being the most common ages of victims coerced into the industry; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of available data on the impact of commercial sexual exploitation in Yolo County but yet even one case of youth victimization is one too many;

WHEREAS, no community, school, socioeconomic group, or student demographic is immune as cases of child trafficking are found in all communities alike; and

WHEREAS, many underage victims of human trafficking are often students in the school system; and

WHEREAS, schools can and should be safe places for students, and even more so for students whose lives are otherwise characterized by instability and lack of safety and security; and

WHEREAS, exploited children endure complex trauma that negatively affects psychosocial development, physical health, and academic engagement, which may manifest in chronic absenteeism, low academic performance, and increase the probability of school dropout; and

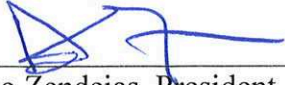
WHEREAS, particularly vulnerable students disproportionately represented as a sexually exploited youth are often homeless, in the foster youth system, African American, LGBTQ,

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of January 2023, by the following vote:

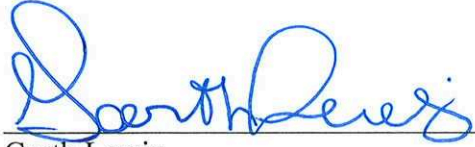
AYES: Esquivel, Salud-Ambriz, Yip, Zendejas

NOES: None

ABSENT: *moreno*



Tico Zendejas, President
Yolo County Board of Education



Garth Lewis
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools