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## Child Trafficking at Hotels

*This helps get everyone involved to stop this travesty.*



There are an estimated 199,000 incidents of sexual exploitation of minor each year in the United States. Around half of these minors are exploited in hotels. The American Hotels and Lodging Association recognizes that trafficking networks often rely on legitimate businesses, including hotels, to sustain their illegal operations and infrastructure.

This means that the hospitality industry has an unusual opportunity to raise awareness of the signs of trafficking and the reporting procedure among their employees and, as a result, actively combat sex trafficking. Many hotels and companies worldwide are diligently working to be a part of the solution, and Kentuckians should support their efforts and raise awareness.

This resolution asks citizens, employees, and agencies of the Commonwealth to direct their travel to hotels that have signed onto The Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct (the Code for short). The Code is an industry-driven initiative with the mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

For a minimal yearly fee, companies can join this internationally recognized and award winning initiative that integrates child protection objectives into the concept of responsible, sustainable tourism. Currently, The Code has 275 members and has trained almost half a million staff in 192 countries. In January of this year, Marriott International, Uber, and American Airlines became the newest members of The Code.

Initiatives that address consumer behavior, industry self-policing, and public awareness have been proven to be extremely effective and don't cost government anything. In America and worldwide more and more tourists are becoming actively engaged in the fight against trafficking by specifically directing their travel to locations that practice responsible tourism which does not exploit the vulnerable.

This resolution serves to raise Kentuckians awareness of the issue, encourage responsible tourism, and incentivize hospitality venues to train their employees to recognize human trafficking, what to do about it, and the relevant state laws.