

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION No. 2457-5

WHEREAS, the month of January is designated as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month to raise awareness and foster opposition to human trafficking and modern slavery; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a pervasive issue in California, with Santa Clara County being particularly vulnerable due to its diverse population and economic dynamics; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education serves many children who are considered at a high risk for human trafficking connected to foster care and the juvenile justice system, who are potential targets for exploitation; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education acknowledges the importance of educating citizens and youth about the realities of human trafficking, including commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor; and

WHEREAS, children subjected to human trafficking endure complex trauma that adversely affects their development, physical health, and academic engagement, leading to chronic absenteeism, low academic performance, and school dropout; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking victims require support to escape and recover from the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual trauma associated with their victimization; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education collaborates with local organizations to provide resources and support for survivors; and

WHEREAS, recognizing National Human Trafficking Prevention Month aligns with the <u>Bill of Rights for</u> <u>Children and Young Adults for Santa Clara County</u>, reinforcing the rights of every child to be safe from exploitation and harm; and

WHEREAS, this resolution supports the Santa Clara County Board of Education's priorities to advance anti-racism and racial justice in education; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the Interim County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing the month of January as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on February 5, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

NOES: none ABSTAIN: none ABSENT: none

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Maimona Afzal Berta, President Santa Clara County Board of Education

Charles Hinman, Ed.D. Interim County Superintendent of Schools