

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 138

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

CHILDREN/MISSING: Memorialize Congress to raise awareness to human trafficking in the United States and worldwide

## 1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to raise  
3 awareness of the issue of human trafficking and sex trafficking to abolish this  
4 modern-day slavery and continue to aid Nigeria in the plight of finding the two-  
5 hundred seventy-six remaining missing girls.

6 WHEREAS, on April 14, 2014, three hundred twenty-nine girls were kidnapped from  
7 their school in Chibok, Nigeria by dozens of gunmen who stormed the girls' dormitories  
8 while they were sleeping; and

9 WHEREAS, in a region where only four percent of girls complete secondary  
10 schooling, the kidnapped girls were the best and the brightest; looking forward to bright  
11 futures as global leaders, teachers, or lawyers; and

12 WHEREAS, the girls were abducted by a radical Islamic group called Boko Haram,  
13 which in English, means "Western education is sinful"; and

14 WHEREAS, on January 31, 2012, in testimony before United States Congress, the  
15 director of national intelligence, James Clapper, included Boko Haram in his worldwide  
16 threat assessment, stating, "There are also fears that Boko Haram, elements of which have  
17 engaged al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb, is interested in hitting Western targets, such as  
18 the United States Embassy and hotels frequented by Westerners"; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States has offered a seven million dollar bounty for the  
20 group's elusive leader, Abubakar Shekau; and

1 WHEREAS, the Department of State designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist  
2 Organization in November 2013, recognizing the threat posed by the group's large-scale and  
3 indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including women and children; and

4 WHEREAS, fifty-three girls were able to escape and have described their  
5 experiences as extremely distressing; and

6 WHEREAS, concern is growing about the safety of those who are still missing; and

7 WHEREAS, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan has accepted offers from the  
8 United States of military personnel, law enforcement officials, and other experts; and

9 WHEREAS, Boko Haram's militant leader, Abubakar Shekau, released a video in  
10 which he expresses his abhorrence of Western education, saying that the girls should be  
11 married instead of being educated and further claims that he will sell the women as he has  
12 been commanded by Allah; and

13 WHEREAS, Abubakar Shekau referred to the girls as slaves and stated that he plans  
14 to kidnap more girls; and

15 WHEREAS, United Nations and the United States have both stressed an absolute  
16 prohibition against slavery and sexual slavery in international law, making these actions  
17 crimes against humanity; and

18 WHEREAS, the White House press secretary has said that appropriate action must  
19 be taken to locate and to free these young women before they are trafficked or killed; and

20 WHEREAS, Louisiana has taken a most aggressive stand to abolish and condemn  
21 slavery among women in Louisiana and worldwide.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
23 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to raise  
24 awareness of human trafficking and sex trafficking to abolish this modern-day slavery and  
25 continue to aid Nigeria in the plight of finding the remaining two hundred seventy-six  
26 missing girls.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
28 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the  
29 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Hodges

HCR No. 138

Memorializes the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to raise awareness of the issue of human trafficking and sex trafficking to abolish this modern-day slavery and continue to aid Nigeria in the plight of finding the two hundred seventy-six remaining missing girls.