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February 10, 2014

World Studies Students
Meridian Early College/Meridian High School
3303 North M-30 Road
Sanford, MI 48657

Dear World Studies Students,

Human Trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people profit greatly through the exploitation of others. Through force, fraud, or coercion, people are being held as slaves to work as domestic workers, farm help, or the sex industry. Many assume this is a problem only in faraway countries, but the shameful truth is human trafficking occurs frequently in the United States. Unfortunately, Michigan's proximity to Canada increases the likelihood of trafficking in the state. It is estimated that every month in Michigan 117-150 girls under the age of 18 are sold in to the world of sex trafficking

As a Senator in Michigan, I am committed to reducing human trafficking in our state. One important component in reduce human trafficking instances is awareness. Far too many people in our state are not aware of the high rates of human trafficking in our state, thus educating the community will be vital to enacting change.

Please raise the awareness of your school and community by creating oral presentations and public service announcements (PSA) on human trafficking and slavery. These announcements must demonstrate appropriate audience and purpose in order to adequately inform viewers about the dangers of human trafficking.

To attain a better understanding of what slavery entails, I encourage you to develop a deep understanding of human trafficking and slavery from a historical, modern day, global, regional, and local perspective. It would be appropriate to use a variety of reliable print sources, videos and data bases as a means to verify the information gathered.

Thank you for your work on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Judy K. Emmons
Michigan State Senator

