



Iowa Federation of Republican Women
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NEWS RELEASE

IowaFRW Commends Human Trafficking Proclamation Republican Women pledge continued work to end slavery

DES MOINES – The Iowa Federation of Republican Women today commended Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad for his proclamation that January is Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month in Iowa.

“The Federation of Republican Women, at both the national and state levels, has been working for several years to bring awareness to the terrible crimes of slavery and human trafficking,” said Gwen Ecklund, president of the IowaFRW. “We commend Governor Branstad and all Iowans who strive to end these horrible practices and we pledge to continue to work with lawmakers and advocates to make further progress on this issue.”

The National Federation of Republican Women in 2014 formally pronounced its “abhorrence of the egregious crime of human trafficking, calling for every state to enact stringent legislation against human trafficking, with strict minimum sentences, incarceration and asset confiscation for the criminals perpetrating human trafficking.”

In early 2015, at the IowaFRW Legislative Day at the Capitol, IowaFRW members met with state legislators to advocate for stricter legislation.

“While human trafficking and slavery are often considered to be crimes of the coasts or the big cities, it’s important for parents and all citizens to understand that this is not the case. Residents of towns large and small, in Iowa and throughout the Midwest, can be affected,” Ecklund stressed. “It’s happening here, and we need to be aware and vigilant.”

The proclamation made today by Gov. Branstad at the Capitol reads in part:

“Every business, community organization, faith community, family and individual can make a difference by choosing products that are not made by forced labor; by working to protect our young people from sexual exploitation; by addressing the problem of internet sex trafficking and pornography; and by becoming more aware of the problem and possible solutions.”

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The Iowa Federation of Republican Women (www.iowafrw.org), founded in 1939 in Tama County, is the premier organization for uniting the voices and values within the Republican Party. Founded in 1938, the NFRW (www.nfrw.org) is the largest and most influential women's political organization in the nation, proudly representing the party that first made it possible for women to vote in the U.S. The NFRW works to increase the effectiveness and relevance of women in the cause of good government. Its mission is to recruit and elect Republican candidates, promote the principles of the Republican Party, educate the public and inform the media.

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