

SUBJECT: Allowing state employees to donate to fund for human trafficking victims

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — Cook, Craddick, Farrar, Frullo, Geren, Harless, Huberty,  
Menéndez, Oliveira, Smithee

0 nays

3 absent — Giddings, Hilderbran, Sylvester Turner

WITNESSES: For — *(Registered, but did not testify: Jennifer Allmon, Texas Catholic  
Conference; Joshua Houston, Texas Impact; Jason Sabo, Children at Risk)*

Against — None

On — *(Registered, but did not testify: Caitriona Lyons, HHSC)*

BACKGROUND: Under Government Code, sec. 659.132, a state employee is authorized to make a deduction from each paycheck for the purpose of making a contribution to an eligible charitable organization. State employees may authorize these deductions during the annual state employee charitable campaign.

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) operates a grant program for domestic victims of human trafficking under Government Code, ch. 531, subch. J-1. Grants are awarded to public and nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to this affected group.

DIGEST: HB 432 would enable the HHSC's grant program for human trafficking victims to be an eligible charitable organization within the state employee charitable campaign. State employees could authorize deductions from their paychecks as contributions to the HHSC for its administration of this grant program.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2013.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

Human trafficking is a heinous crime affecting men, women, boys, and girls from abroad, as well as those who are born right here in the United States. HB 432 would simply add HHSC's fund for domestic human trafficking victims to the list of charitable organizations to which state employees could choose to donate.

According to HB 432's fiscal note, operating this program as part of the state's employee charitable campaign would have no cost to the state. Existing HHSC resources would be sufficient to support any additional work resulting from the passage of the bill.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.