

## Enrolled

# Senate Joint Memorial 2

Sponsored by Senators WAGNER, MANNING JR; Senators FREDERICK, GELSER, Representatives ALONSO LEON, CAMPOS, DEXTER, GRAYBER, HUDSON, NERON, PHAM, POWER, PRUSAK, REARDON, REYNOLDS, RUIZ, SALINAS, SOLLMAN, VALDERRAMA, WILLIAMS (Pre-session filed.)

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas slavery was outlawed in the United States in 1865 by the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

Whereas the Thirteenth Amendment includes an exception for “punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted”; and

Whereas since 1865, the federal and state criminal justice systems have disproportionately incarcerated Black Americans and forced them to work or involuntarily serve; and

Whereas nonwhite citizens continue to be incarcerated at disproportionate rates to white citizens; and

Whereas America is home to five percent of the world’s total population but 25 percent of the world’s incarcerated population; and

Whereas forced or unpaid labor is antithetical to the principles of inherent human dignity and rehabilitation of criminal offenders; and

Whereas incarcerated persons are not protected by workplace safety laws that help keep other Americans safe on the job; and

Whereas the United States bans imports of goods produced with forced labor in other nations, therefore the use of goods produced with forced labor should not persist in the State of Oregon or the United States; and

Whereas the use of forced labor in the American prison system undermines our international human rights leadership and gives our foreign adversaries propaganda that they can use to undermine American leadership abroad and Americans’ trust in their government at home; now, therefore,

### **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to take appropriate steps to fulfill its ethical obligation to its people by introducing and passing an amendment to the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, thereby ending the racist legacy of slavery in our nation’s most important document; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge that the Thirteenth Amendment be amended to omit the “except as a punishment” clause and that it explicitly declare that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude may be imposed as a punishment for a crime; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by Senate April 15, 2021

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Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Adopted by House June 2, 2021

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House