

Senate Joint Memorial 2

Sponsored by Senators WAGNER, MANNING JR; Senator FREDERICK (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to amend Thirteenth Amendment to United States Constitution to omit clause excepting criminal punishment, thereby ending racist legacy of slavery in nation's most important document.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

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

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

8 Whereas the Thirteenth Amendment includes an exception for "punishment for crime whereof
9 the party shall have been duly convicted"; and

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

12 Whereas nonwhite citizens continue to be incarcerated at disproportionate rates to white citi-
13 zens; and

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

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

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

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

23 Whereas the use of forced labor in the American prison system undermines our international
24 human rights leadership and gives our foreign adversaries propaganda that they can use to under-
25 mine American leadership abroad and Americans' trust in their government at home; now, therefore,
26 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

27 That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress
28 of the United States to take appropriate steps to fulfill its ethical obligation to its people by intro-
29 ducing and passing an amendment to the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution,
30 thereby ending the racist legacy of slavery in our nation's most important document; and be it fur-
31 ther

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

SJM 2

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

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

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