

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, and members of the Committee:

My name is Riley Burton, and I am writing to you as a concerned member of the Oregon community. The act enslaving Oregonians as a conduit for punishment is antithetical to the pursuit of life liberty and justice. Further, in dehumanizing incarcerated members of our society we prove how interwoven the white supremacist scars of the Oregon territory are with modern society. In this letter I hope to convey to you that quite literally the soul of what Oregon represents as a state hinges on the passage of SJR 10.

The issue tackled by this bill is quite literally black and white. In voting on SJR10 you can either be against all forms of slavery or you can be a on record proponent of forced servitude. This bill is not a threat to the availability of work programs or educational services as both those things can be voluntarily participated in. Further, any effect that SJR 10 has on prison programs is an effect that would come directly from *ending slavery*. Thus, the question this bill raises is, how many programs has our prison system built on the foundation of slavery?

When this legislation was accepted it was constitutionally illegal to be Black in Oregon. Creating a fast track into slavery for any black person within the state's boundaries. Currently in setting the bar for how we treat our AIC as sub-human we have perpetuated a perverse incentive to detain and subjugate.

The legal status of AIC is so dire that their categorically almost no reform that can be pursued in prison programs until AIC are categorized as people instead of property. The slavery exception is a massive overreach of governmental tyranny. The blanket permission to enslave any person as a punishment for a crime is inhumane affecting all Oregonians from protesters to traffic tickets. We are living in a system where any mistake carries the risk of striping any Oregonian of virtually all legal protection of basic human rights. I implore the comity to recognize that the floor should not be that low.

Respectfully,
Riley Burton