

I strongly support the passage of SJR 10 to end state-sponsored slavery and involuntary servitude in Oregon. Given the emerging--and growing--moral consensus that such practices are gross violations of American values and international human rights norms, laws, and practices, I urge you today to amend your state constitution to prohibit these practices permanently. In abolishing constitutional slavery at the state level, you will join 4 states which have already done so (Rhode Island, Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska); 11 states which are preparing to do so by 2022 (Alabama, Louisiana, California, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, New Jersey, Texas, New York, Minnesota, and Florida); and 13 states (as well as Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico) which are organizing to do so soon (Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, North Carolina, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Kansas). Moreover, you will be supporting national legislation (HJR104/SJR81) to end slavery on a federal level through repealing the Exception Clause of the Thirteenth Amendment and replacing it with the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution. As a nation, we are truly at an historic crossroads in which we can finally--and truly--honor the lives and labors of the tens of millions who were unjustly and brutally enslaved or subjected to slavery-based terrorism, the slavery abolitionists who fought these practices, and the present 2.4 million who are vulnerable to state-sponsored slavery in US prisons. Please join me in recognizing that the future is Abolitionist!! Thank you.