

Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

My name is Danielle Maillard and I am writing in full support of SJM2, which 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 and in full support of SJR10, which proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances.

This omission is long overdue. The premise of involuntary servitude in any capacity is unjust and inhumane and has always been about the disenfranchisement of people of color. This change in language will not rectify the trauma that has been perpetuated over hundreds of years by the prison system, but it is a step towards taking accountability as a nation.

Many people are quick to acknowledge that if an individual commits a crime, they should face consequences. They are less quick to acknowledge how intertwined imprisonment is with factors outside of an individual's control, and that "committing a crime" looks completely different when it comes to race, class, and a variety of other aspects.

I urge you to not only support SJM2, but to commit to continuing this rectification of a legacy that has broken families and communities and has allowed for inequitable power dynamics to plague this country from the beginning.

Thank you to the sponsors of this bill.

Sincerely,

Danielle Maillard