

Testimony on Senate Joint Resolution 1

Senate Judiciary Committee

June 16, 2021

Chair Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Committee Member Thomas, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in support of SJR 1.

Slavery is the most shameful part of America's history. While we would like to believe that slavery ended with Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, the fact is that many Americans, and many Ohioans, remain enslaved today as punishment through the criminal justice system. Slavery as a form of punishment is cruel and unusual and disproportionately affects Black men. This practice needs to end, and immediately. Let's make Ohio the next state to wholly eliminate slavery.

Thank you.