

Written Testimony for Ohio 6/16/2021 SJR1

Chair Manning, Vice Chair McColley, and members of the committee.

I am writing in support of SJR1.

For the record, I am, Max Parthas. Volunteer Co-director for state operations on behalf of the [Abolish Slavery National Network](#).

I feel it necessary to point out the irony of where we find ourselves here today.

Your original exception to slavery predates the 13th amendment and was written in 1806. Setting the stage for other states to do the same as legal justifications for use of cheap/free labor through convict leasing schemes. Leading to the federal adoption of this same clause.

1806 Ohio State Constitution sec 2.

There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in this State, otherwise than for the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted; nor shall any male person, arrived at the age of twenty-one years, or female person arrived at the age of eighteen years, be held to serve any person as a servant, under the pretense of indenture or otherwise, unless such person shall enter into such indenture while in a state of perfect freedom, and on a condition of a bona fide consideration, received or to be received, for their service, except as before excepted. Nor shall any indenture of any negro or mulatto, hereafter made and executed out of the State, or if made in the State, where the term of service exceeds one year, be of the least validity, except those given in the case of apprenticeships.

I would like to state for the record that there is no logical justification for turning a human being into property as a punishment for crime, **or**, for **any** other reason. Having such a clause already in the state constitution is itself a standing violation of article 4 from the International Declaration of Human Rights.

This is the year 2021 and it is long past time that these loopholes for legalized slavery were removed from our nation's constitutions.

As a representative for the ASNN, **and** as a US citizen who wants nothing more than to see these dehumanizing and destructive relics of chattel slavery removed, I stand in full support of SJR 1.

I would like to take a moment to impress upon you the national scale of this movement to end constitutional slavery.

As of today, 4 states have abolished slavery without exception.

Rhode Island, Utah, Colorado, and Nebraska.

At least 12 states have drafted legislation to remove pro slavery language in 2021 and 2022.

1 Alabama

2 Louisiana
3 California
4 Ohio
5 Tennessee
6 Vermont
7 New Jersey
8 Texas
9 New York
10 Minnesota
11 Florida
12 Oregon

13 additional states, plus the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are organizing as we speak to do the same by 2022.

These include **GA/IN/KY/MS/MO/SC/NC/CT/ME/MD/MA/PA/KS**

A federal joint resolution is being submitted on June 17th sponsored by Senator Merkley of Oregon and Congresswoman Nikima Williams.

Yesterday, June 15th, California's ACA3 passed Unanimously through the State Assembly. If they can, why can't you? Twice before bills to remove this language have been killed in the Ohio committee. Will you vote yes for slavery again today?
We pray not.

I thank the esteemed committee, the EPICX organization, and the citizens of this state who will end slavery without exception.
With that, I conclude my comments.

Max Parthas