

Please accept this as my written testimony in support of removal of the exception slavery clause in the Ohio Constitution.

Unfortunately, I have just become aware that the Ohio Constitution still contains language that approves of slavery. There is no justification to allow slavery to exist in any form or fashion in legislation of any kind in America. As history has shown, slavery in itself was a crime (i.e. the tearing apart of families, rape, murder and other inhumane treatment of one race over another).

I support Senator Cecil Thomas and others who are introducing a resolution to remove the exception "unless for the punishment of crime" from the Ohio State Constitution (Article 1, Section 6) that says "There shall be no slavery in this state; nor involuntary servitude, unless for the punishment of crime."

I now know this is not the first time an effort has been made to remove this language from the Ohio Constitution and I most certainly hope we will not need another one after this. Allow the citizens of Ohio to cast their vote on this much needed change.

Thank you,

Shirley Griffin  
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