

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SJM 2

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime. Immediately after its passage and through the present day, this "criminality clause" has been exploited to a full and grotesque extent.

The U.S. incarcerates more people and has more people in involuntary servitude than any other nation. An astounding 40% of the the U.S. prison population is Black men. Incarceration has a negative impact on the physical and mental health of inmates. After their release, former inmates are discriminated against and denied crucial opportunities and citizenship.

The criminality clause in the Thirteenth Amendment and the subsequent mass incarceration of Black men has allowed our nation's shameful legacy of slavery to continue. **THIS CLAUSE MUST BE REMOVED!** I implore you -- please pass SJM 2.

Sincerely,

Stacey Boatright