

22 February 2021

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Re: Senate Joint Memorial 2

Dear Chair Senator Prozanski, Vice-Chair Senator Thatcher, and members of the Committee:

I am opposed to Senate Joint Memorial 2 and urge you to table this bill. For the state of Oregon to come up with such an ill-found suggestion to support this proposed change in the nation's Constitution is ludicrous beyond belief. Supporting and promoting such a bill is hypocritical, and here's why...

The sponsors of this legislation hope to have our national Constitution amended to explicitly declare that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude may be imposed (as a punishment for a crime), yet I, as a non-criminal and a tax-payer, find myself struggling under *involuntary servitude* by order of our own governor. What else can it be called when I am forced to house—for free—my tenant who for months has not paid the rent I am legally due? Oh, but you say, we mean to prohibit involuntary servitude 'as a punishment'. Well, fine and dandy but, apparently involuntary servitude for committing no crime at all is perfectly acceptable.

At the end the bill worries about "undermining American leadership abroad and Americans' trust in their government at home." Trust in our government at home, in Oregon, has to be earned.

The sponsors of this bill really need to reconsider jumping on this national bandwagon. Listen to Thomas Sowell, probably our most preeminent speaker on the topic of racism and his take on the term *systemic racism* that you toss out there as some sort of valid justification, "It really has no meaning that can be specified and tested in the way that one tests hypotheses." Which means, it is just someone's opinion. A theory.

It is an embarrassment to know that my state would promote a memorial such as this while rental property owners here are forced to provide free housing against their will, i.e., involuntarily.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Wisner".

Richard Wisner