

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

1/21/2021

RESOLUTION 2020.4

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to constitutional amendments to reduce structural racism

WHEREAS, slavery and involuntary servitude are repugnant to society, and there should be no exceptions to its prohibition, yet both the Oregon and U.S. constitutions contain an exception for “*punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted,*” an exception that has been used to racist effect for more than a century and a half; and

WHEREAS, Sens. Manning, Frederick, & Gelser and Reps. Bynum and Sollman have proposed [SJR 10](#) to delete the exception in the Oregon Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Sens. Wagner, Manning, Frederick, and Gelser have introduced [SJM 2](#) which urges Congress to amend the 13th amendment to the U.S. constitution to remove the exception in the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, section 41 of Article 1 of the Oregon Constitution also effectively requires involuntary servitude (“*All inmates of state corrections institutions shall be actively engaged full-time in work or on-the-job training*”) and Reps. Campos and Pham have introduced [HJR 5](#), a constitutional amendment repealing this section;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

SECTION 1: To support [SJR 10](#) (remove exception to prohibition on slavery and involuntary servitude from the Oregon Constitution).

SECTION 2: To support [SJM 2](#) (calls on Congress to remove exception to prohibition on slavery and involuntary servitude from the U.S. Constitution).

SECTION 3: To support [HJR 5](#) (remove Oregon Constitutional requirement for inmates to engage in involuntary servitude).

SECTION 4: To encourage Lane County Democrats to communicate their support of these bills to appropriate legislators.