



End the Exception Amendment

Congresswoman Nikema Williams and Senator Jeff Merkley are re-introducing the End the Exception Amendment to finally abolish slavery in America in every form, once and for all.

The 13th Amendment that abolished slavery after the Civil War includes an **"Exception Clause"** within the Amendment that outlaws slavery *"except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted."* Leaving this exception in our founding document runs counter to our deeply held American values, leaving a loophole for bad actors to physically harm prisoners with impunity.

The **End the Exception Amendment** would remove the Exception Clause from the constitution, revising the 13th Amendment's text to clearly and completely ban slavery in all forms.

Over a dozen states have pursued changes to their Constitutions, and so far a mix of red and blue states—Colorado, Nebraska, Utah, Alabama, Oregon, Tennessee, and Vermont—have **successfully amended their state Constitutions** to remove extremely similar language. In the 118th Congress, this Constitutional amendment was supported by a bipartisan group of over 140 total cosponsors.

This amendment is an **opportunity to make prison work a dignified experience** that facilitates rehabilitation and ultimately reduces recidivism when prisoners can support themselves through consistent work after their release. **This change would not hinder in any way current state or federal work programs**, community service, or civic engagement offered as alternatives to incarceration or other forms of punishment.





Co-Sponsors: Gabe Amo, Nanette Barragan, Joyce Beatty, Ami Bera, Donald S. Beyer, Sanford Bishop, Troy Carter, Greg Casar, Judy Chu, Emanuel Cleaver, II, Watson Coleman, Yvette D. Clarke, Madeleine Dean, Suzan DelBene, Diana DeGette, Chris Deluzio, Mark DeSaulnier, Maxine Dexter, Maxwell Alejandro Frost, Jesús "Chuy" García, Steven Horsford, Jared Huffman, Jonathan L. Jackson, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Robin Kelly, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Susie Lee, Summer Lee, Stephen Lynch, Nydia M. Velazquez, Jennifer McClellan, Gwen Moore, Seth Moulton, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Ilhan Omar, Jimmy Panetta, Scott Peters, Chellie Pingree, Ayanna Pressley, Mike Quigley, Delia C. Ramirez, Frederica S. Wilson, Mary Gay Scanlon, Jan Schakowsky, Terri Sewell, Lateefah Simon, Melanie Stansbury, Mark Takano, Rashida Tlaib, Lori Trahan, Lauren Underwood, Ted W. Lieu, Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Endorsing Organizations: Abolish Slavery National Network, Abolish Private Prisons, Action, Center on Race and the Economy, Alliance of Families for Justice, Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST), American Civil Liberties Union, American Friends Service Committee of Arizona, Amnesty International USA, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Arts for Healing and Justice Network, Beyond the Bars, Black and Pink, Brennan Center for Justice, The Bronx Defenders, California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice, California Lawyers for the Arts, Civil Rights Corps, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), College and Community Fellowship, Common Justice, Color of Change, Community Alliance on Prisons, Constitutional Accountability Center, Corporate Accountability Lab, Creative Acts, CURE National, Designing, Justice Designing Spaces, #DetentionKills, Detroit Justice Center, Dolores Street Community Services, Dream Corps Justicem, Ensuring Parole for Incarcerated Citizens, Equal Justice Initiative, Ex-incarcerated People Organizing, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Filling the Gap, Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted People and Families Movement (FICPFM), Forward Justice, Freedom United, FWD.us, Guazabara Insights, Human Trafficking Search, Imagine Justice, Immigrant Defense Advocates, Impact Justice, Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee, Incarceration Nations Network, Just Leadership USA, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, Living Beyond the Bars, MarchON, Michigan Liberation, Millions for Prisoners New Mexico, Movement for Family Power, MoveOn, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), One Fair Wage, Paul Cuffee Abolitionist Center, Polaris, Presente, Prison Policy Initiative, Prisoners' Legal Services of Massachusetts, Project South, Promise of Justice Initiative, PushBlack, Rehabilitation Through the Arts, Represent Justice, SawariMedia, Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for, Responsible Investment, Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Social Workers and Allies Against Solitary Confinement, Southern Anti-Racism Network, Southern Poverty Law Center, Southwest Save the Kids from Incarceration, Texas Organizing Project, The Community, The Healing Project, The Justice Roundtable, Towards Justice, Transgender Law Center, Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois, United Voices of Cortland, Vera Institute of Justice, Verité, Vital Voices Global Partnership, VOCAL-NY, WE GOT US NOW, Working Families Party, Worth Rises, Young Women's Freedom Center, Zealous

