HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 18-1002


SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION THAT PROHIBITS SLAVERY AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE AS PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME AND THEREBY PROHIBITS SLAVERY AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHEREAS, The Colorado constitution has prohibited involuntary servitude, which is the coerced service of one individual for the benefit of another, since 1877; and

WHEREAS, That prohibition has, by its express terms, never been
applied when involuntary servitude is imposed upon an individual as
punishment for a crime for which the individual has been duly convicted;
and

WHEREAS, The state should not have the power to compel
individuals to labor against their will; and

WHEREAS, The state recognizes that allowing individuals
convicted of a crime to perform work incident to such convictions,
including labor at penal institutions or pursuant to work-release programs,
assists in such individuals' rehabilitations, teaches practical and
interpersonal skills that may be useful upon their reintegration with society,
and contributes to healthier and safer penal environments; and

WHEREAS, Because work provides myriad individual and
collective benefits, the purpose of this proposed constitutional amendment
is not to withdraw legitimate opportunities to work for individuals who have
been convicted of a crime, but instead to merely prohibit compulsory labor
from such individuals; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first General
Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

SECTION 1. At the election held on November 6, 2018, the
secretary of state shall submit to the registered electors of the state the ballot
title set forth in section 2 for the following amendment to the state
constitution:

In the constitution of the state of Colorado, amend section 26 of
article II as follows:

Section 26. Slavery prohibited. There shall never be in this state
either slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime;
whereof the party shall have been duly convicted;

SECTION 2. Each elector voting at the election may cast a vote
either "Yes/For" or "No/Against" on the following ballot title: "Shall there
be an amendment to the Colorado constitution that prohibits slavery and
involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime and thereby prohibits
slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances?"
SECTION 3. Except as otherwise provided in section 1-40-123, Colorado Revised Statutes, if at least fifty-five percent of the electors voting on the ballot title vote "Yes/For", then the amendment will become part of the state constitution.

Crisanta Duran  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Kevin J. Grantham  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Effie Ameen  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE