

please amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to completely prohibit slavery (as introduced), which will "serve as a foundation for addressing systemic racism in our States's laws and institutions". The weakness of the current language is confusing and it is a disgrace to past enslaved Vermonters and Vermonters currently enslaved in low wage exploitative labor in our penal system. Do better, VT! Other states look to you as an example of justice. How can we be said example if we refuse to pass the constitutional amendment as introduced, to explicitly outlaw slavery? 242 years of dithering and obfuscatory language is disgraceful. Pass the amendment with its original clear language to restore dignity to those wronged by slavery. Most of all, pass it, and prove to me in the wake of the Kiah Morris/Max Misch debacle that my state values Vermonters of color. This Morris/Misch mess has made me lose faith in my own state and the ability of those that govern that you folks actually want to dismantle systemic racism. To tweak Trump's quote, "Make my state great again!" Officials have said that the way Trump operates "is not the way we operate here in VT" Well again I say, prove it! Completely amend the state constitution to prohibit slavery, and make my state great again. If Trump "is not how we do it in VT," and I'm tweaking the language of someone I disrespect to implore you folks to change things, then we have a serious problem. Actions speak loudly; amend the constitution to prohibit slavery. If not, I will join Vermonters of color among those that have lost faith in democracy. Surely, you don't wish to create a generation of faithless? No? Then can I count on you to amend the constitution as introduced to outlaw slavery? I sure hope so, because these times try people's souls, and I really don't want my state constitution to be weighed, measured, and found wanting. Jill Allen, Burlington

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