

From: heidiswevens@gmail.com <heidiswevens@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:53 PM

To: Testimony <testimony@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Proposition 2 Testimony

I am writing to communicate strong support of amending Article 1 via Proposition 2 to abolish slavery and indentured servitude exception language currently enshrined in Vermont's constitution.

Thank you for your time, care, and service.

Heidi Swevens

she/they

(802) 238-5170

Essex Jct.

Below is the change that was brought to my attention and which I support:

PROPOSAL 2

AS PASSED BY SENATE Page 3 of 3 2019

Sec. 1. PURPOSE This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to clarify that slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited.

Sec. 2. Article 1 of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

Article 1. [All persons born free; their natural rights; slavery and indentured servitude prohibited] That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety; therefore ~~no person born in this country, or brought from over sea, ought to be holden by law, to serve any person as servant, slave or apprentice, after arriving to the age of twenty one years, unless bound by the person's own consent, after arriving to such age, or bound by law for the payment of debts, damages, fines, costs, or the like~~ slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE The amendment set forth in Sec. 2 shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2022 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.