

1 [Supporting California State Proposition 6 on November 2024 Ballot]

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3 **Resolution supporting Proposition 6 to amend Article 1, Section 6, of the California**
4 **Constitution to remove the exception clause permitting involuntary servitude as**
5 **punishment for a crime, effectively ending all legal vestiges of slavery in the state.**
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7 WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution currently states that
8 "slavery is prohibited" with the exception that "involuntary servitude as a punishment for
9 crime" may still be practiced; and

10 WHEREAS, The exception clause permits the continued exploitation of labor from
11 incarcerated individuals, which disproportionately impacts people of color, particularly Black
12 and Indigenous communities, and perpetuates systemic racial inequalities; and

13 WHEREAS, Forced labor under the guise of punishment for crime is a vestige of
14 slavery, a system that the United States Constitution's 13th Amendment sought to abolish, yet
15 left this harmful exception intact, effectively allowing slavery by another name; and

16 WHEREAS, California is currently one of only 16 states that still retains this exception
17 in its constitution, perpetuating a practice that should have been eradicated with the abolition
18 of slavery; and

19 WHEREAS, Proposition 6 seeks to amend Article 1, Section 6 of the California
20 Constitution to remove the exception clause, fully prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude
21 under any circumstances, thereby reaffirming California's commitment to human rights and
22 dignity; and

23 WHEREAS, The passage of Proposition 6 aligns with the principles of justice and
24 fairness, ensuring that no individual, regardless of their legal status, can be subjected to
25 involuntary servitude as a means of punishment; and

1 WHEREAS, Ending this exception would set a national example, showing that
2 California stands firmly against all forms of slavery and upholds the fundamental belief in
3 equality and freedom for all; and

4 WHEREAS, Proposition 6 will enable incarcerated people to prioritize their
5 rehabilitation so they can work jobs and shifts that enable them to access education,
6 counseling, and other rehabilitative programs, including Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics
7 Anonymous, that facilitate growth and make people less likely to re-offend upon their release;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Evidence shows that the more people are rehabilitated, the less likely they
10 are to suffer from homelessness and re-offend, avoiding costs for re-incarceration; these
11 savings can be reallocated to community programs, investments in mental health programs,
12 education, and other public services, improving the well-being of all Californians while saving
13 taxpayers money; and

14 WHEREAS, A broad coalition of civil rights organizations, faith leaders, labor unions,
15 legal experts, and formerly incarcerated individuals have voiced their strong support for
16 Proposition 6 and the removal of the slavery exception from California's Constitution; and

17 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of historical
18 accountability and the responsibility to dismantle the legacies of systemic injustice embedded
19 in our state and nation's legal framework; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby declares its support
21 for Proposition 6, which amends Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution to remove
22 the exception clause permitting involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime, effectively
23 ending all legal vestiges of slavery in the state; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk to send copies
25 of this Resolution to the Governor of California, the Speaker of the California Assembly, the

1 President pro Tempore of the California State Senate, and other appropriate state and local
2 officials to advocate for the passage of Proposition 6.

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