[Supporting Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 8 (Wilson) - End Slavery in California Act]

Resolution supporting Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 8, introduced by Assembly Member Lori Wilson, to prohibit slavery in any form, including forced labor as a punishment to a crime.

WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution states, "There shall be no slavery in this state; nor involuntary servitude, unless for the punishment of crime;" and

WHEREAS, Black, Latino, Brown, Asian and Pacific Islander, Indigenous people, and other people of color have been disproportionately affected by these laws and, at current, are incarcerated at the highest rates across the nation and within the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Incarcerated people in California are subject to inhumane forced labor and exploitation of their bodies including fighting wildfires, and manufacturing and packaging products that benefit our own state agencies including the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Health Care Services, and more; and

WHEREAS, Incarcerated people are not properly compensated for their labor and are forced to into dangerous working conditions under threat of punishment; and

WHEREAS, Last year, over 65% of incarcerated people in California reported being forced to work in prison, doing vital jobs like firefighting and paving roads while governments and private companies generate and save, collectively, at least one billion dollars each year from their labor; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, incarcerated workers made up 43% of the state's fire fighters, but even after some were released from prison, they were barred from serving as firefighters; and

WHEREAS, California has a history of sanctioning slavery and involuntary servitude including forcing the return of enslaved people back to slave owners in states where slavery

was legal through the Fugitive Slave Act, passing the Act for the Government and Protection of Indians, which established the legal slavey and involuntary servitude of Indigenous children, and enacting laws that created and allowed a slave labor system to permeate throughout the state of California during the Gold Rush; and

WHEREAS, California has adopted racist stances throughout its history including refusing to ratify the 14th and 15th Amendments of the Constitution of the United States, the internment of Japanese citizens in World War II, and the constitutional ban on employment of Chinese or Mongolian descent; and

WHEREAS, California has repealed these laws and ultimately ratified the 14th and 15th Amendments as a recognition of the racism and immorality of these laws and declared that these provisions are relics of the past that have no place in California's legal code; and

WHEREAS, It is clear that Article 1 Section 6 of the California Constitution as it is currently written is not consistent with the current legislative, judicial, and executive intent of modern California law and fails to unequivocally prohibit the inhumane practice of slavery and involuntary servitude; and

WHEREAS, The people seek the same protections for incarcerated people as nonincarcerated people to be free from oppressive constitutional statutes and eliminate the exception of using slavery and indentured servitude as punishment of crime; and

WHEREAS, The people seek to update and remove outdated constitutional language that better reflects California's spirit and values, freedom and liberties, and end the vestiges of slavery that continue to put Black, Latino, and other people of color into involuntary servitude in California; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 66-20 on August 21, 2020, declaring anti-Black racism as a human rights and public health crisis in San Francisco and requesting that City and County of San Francisco departments and agencies

advocate for local, state, regional, and federal anti-racist policies that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed Resolution No. 112-21 on March 9, 2021, supporting Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 3, authored by Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager, to denounce structural racism and any vestiges of slavery, but this bill failed the two-thirds vote in the State Senate on August 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, California is among 16 states with an "exception clause" for involuntary servitude in its state constitution; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Constitution Amendment No. 8 (ACA 8), also known as the End Slavery in California Act, introduced by Assembly Member Lori Wilson, is a second attempt to eradicate the phrase "involuntary servitude except as a punishment to crime" from California's Constitution to truly abolish modern day slavery and forced labor in California; and

WHEREAS, ACA 8 has the support of several statewide organizations including the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Legal Services With Prisoners With Children, All Of Us Or None Of Us and the Anti-Violence, Safety, and Accountability Project. Sisters Warriors Freedom Coalition, and Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 8, and urges its passage in the California State Legislature; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk to submit a copy of this Resolution to the Speaker of the State Assembly, Assembly Member Lori Wilson, and the members of San Francisco's legislative delegation, Senator Scott Wiener, Assembly Members Matt Haney and Phil Ting.



City and County of San Francisco Tails

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San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Resolution: 355-23

File Number: 230782 Date Passed: July 20, 2023 Resolution supporting Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 8, introduced by Assembly Member Lori Wilson, to prohibit slavery in any form, including forced labor as a punishment to a crime. July 11, 2023 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED Ayes: 10 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Safai, Stefani and Walton Excused: 1 - Ronen File No. 230782 I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 7/11/2023 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco. Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board 07/21/2023 Unsigned London N. Breed Date Approved Mayor I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2. 07/21/2023

Angela Calvillo

Date