

Secretary: Vote explanation please. Senator Boquist

“SJM 2 is a letter sent to the Clerks of Congress asking for the repeal of the “Punishment Clause” of the 13th Amendment as stated by the Carrier. Some call the 13th Amendment a slavery loophole but zero evidence exists of this today. None-the-less, this Senator would be happy to sign on to a Memorial removing the word “slavery” from Section 1 in what is also known as the “Exception Clause.” However, note there is a Section 2 that will be adversely impacted down to the abuse victims if SJM 2’s written text were adopted. The Carrier clearly stated the intent was to ensure individuals convicted of crimes did not have to labor as a result of a conviction by a judge or jury of their peers. Does prison become a holiday? Does victim restitution disappear? The short answer is yes to the ‘holiday’ question as that was stated on the Floor. The short answer to victim restitution and other involuntary servitude situations completely unrelated to ‘slavery’ is yes as well. Interestingly, it might even toss out the Governor’s emergency pandemic powers. These involuntary servitude impacts are well documented in court precedence. This is not addressed in the staff measure summary, was not addressed by the Carrier or other Senate Democrat speakers, and not addressed in the SJM’s testimony as emotion for political purposes was what this State Senator observed. Tell that to a victim. I seriously doubt any anti-Democrat daily protester in Portland is believing this legislative rhetoric. If there is a concern the word ‘slavery’ in the 13th Amendment should be removed this Senator is all in for that memorial or resolution. However, the Fugitive Slave Clause should be repealed first as it has legal precedence in the U.S. Supreme Court as recently as 1988. Then we should not forget it is the Democrat Party legislators in Oregon who reversed Oregon’s ratification of the 14th Amendment to end slavery. No amount of revisionist history on the Floor of the Oregon State Senate changes facts like Lane County’s name sake, Governor Joseph Lane, Democrat, was the Vice Presidential candidate for the southern democrat confederate states in the 1860 election. This State Senator finds it odd after more than four decades of Democrat executive and legislative control the best we can do is a memorial to a Clerk in DC. Oregon minorities would be better served if the legislature passed appropriations and statutes helping disadvantaged and minority citizens rather than political rhetoric being sent to Washington D.C..”