

END SLAVERY IN MINNESOTA

ENDING SLAVERY at the Legislature

What to know and how we'll get it done!



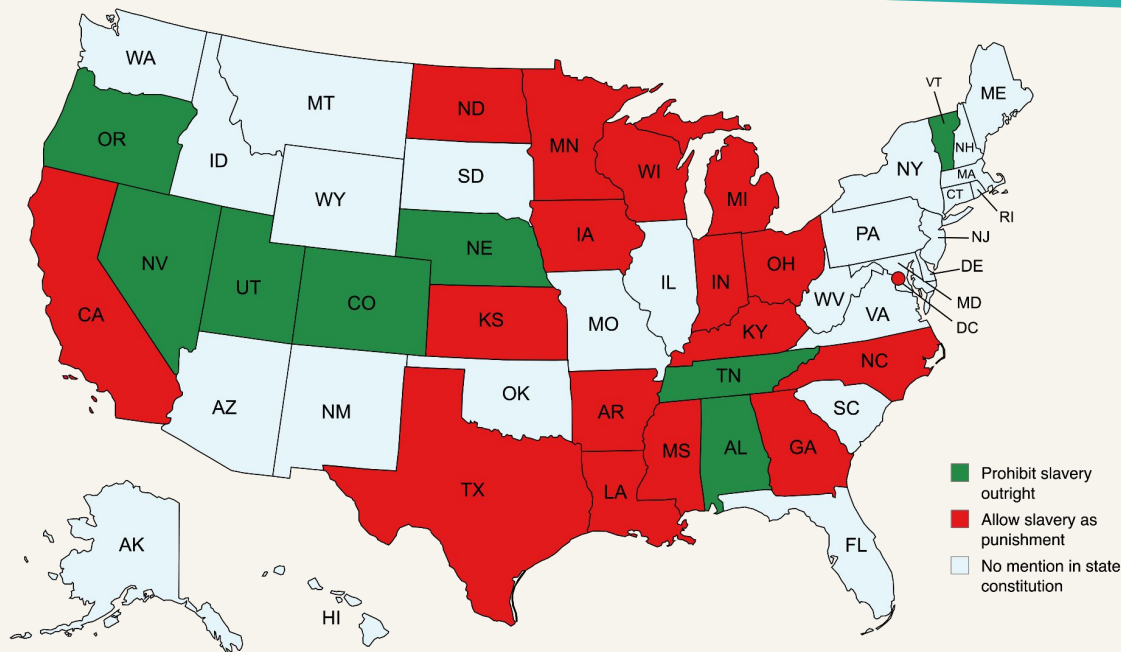
Is Slavery Really Legal in Minnesota?

YES

Minnesota's constitution
Article 1, Section 2 says
**“There shall be neither
slavery nor involuntary
servitude in the state,
otherwise than as
punishment for a crime”**

Minnesota is behind.

**END
SLAVERY
in
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Eight states have already ended slavery in their constitutions.

Minnesota is not one of them, and **we want to change that.**

Yes, Minnesota prisoners are legally slaves.



- Forced to work
- For \$0.25 / hour
- Menial jobs with no future
- Leave prison with nothing
- Creates despair, homelessness, cycles of poverty, crime, and violence

“Imagine working full time for 32 years and having nothing to show for it. For more than three decades, I put in my eight hours per day but couldn’t buy birthday presents for my kids. I could barely afford soap, let alone save money for the future. Why would I work for 25 cents per hour? Because, in Minnesota, I was a slave.”

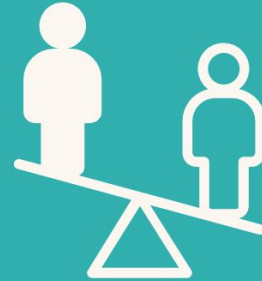
Derrick Dukes

Slavery impacts ALL of us.

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Prison labor wages steal
\$100 million annually
from our poorest families
and communities



**Black, Indigenous and
LGBTQIA people** in MN are
disproportionately impacted by
the criminal punishment system.

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With **1 in 6 children** in MN experiencing parental incarceration, fair wages would break cycles of intergenerational poverty.



\$13,000

Average cost of legal fees to a family
with an incarcerated loved one, not counting the thousands required to support them in prison



How cities like Saint Paul are implicated.

- Cities purchase goods and services through supply chains that may rely on prison labor.
- Local governments bear many of the costs of failed reentry, including homelessness, unemployment, public safety challenges, and emergency services.
- Legal slavery begins at first point of entry into the criminal justice system, which is often through city and municipal jails.



How cities like Saint Paul are implicated.

- When incarcerated people leave prison with little work experience, few savings, and no pathway to economic stability, cities feel the impact first.
- Strong reentry outcomes create safer neighborhoods, stronger local economies, and lower taxpayer costs.
- Ending slavery is not just a state issue; it is a community safety, workforce development, and economic justice issue for every Minnesota city.

Ending slavery will make us safer.

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People with secure finances
on release from prison are
**4.6 times less likely
to reoffend.**



80% of those incarcerated
are arrested again within five
years of release

Ending slavery saves us money.

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For every 1% reduction in
recidivism, MN taxpayers
save \$63 million
per year.



Ending slavery in Minnesota
will create an estimated
\$500 million each year in
economic development.

The Bill to End Slavery in Minnesota



“Ends forced labor in correctional facilities by reclassifying prisoners as workers with access to employment.”

First, we will change the law, making prisoners workers – not slaves – learning from failure of Constitutional changes to help prisoners in other states! Second, we’ll change the state Constitution!



Meet Our Champions

Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten

(DFL) District: 66

Assistant Majority Leader



Representative Cedrick Frazier

(DFL) District: 43A

How will it work?

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Prisoners will receive Minnesota minimum wage or better: Half going to savings minus taxes, 25% to victims or courts costs, including 5% to Aid to Victims if no other costs, 20% to families and living expenses, and 5% to DOC.



How will it work?

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75% of jobs will be through outside employers on-site, off-site, or remote: Government, private corporations, nonprofits, universities, and self employment. This will remove cost from the state budget and contribute a small contracting fee.



How will it work?

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Cost of increasing DOC jobs will be covered by recidivism savings:

Reducing recidivism 1% saves the DOC \$5 million and the public \$58 million (Source: MN DOC 2023) -- a projected 5% reduction will save \$315 million total, including \$25 million to cover DOC prisoner wage increases



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Questions?

Email legislators using this code!

