

KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF AMENDING SECTION 25 OF THE KENTUCKY CONSTITUTION

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WHEREAS, In 1960, the Kentucky General Assembly created the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, (the "Commission"), "to encourage fair treatment for, to foster mutual understanding and respect among, and to discourage discrimination against any racial or ethnic group or its members."

AND,

WHEREAS, Since 1966, the Commission has been the state agency charged with the enforcement of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act which prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing and credit transactions on the basis race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, familial status, and/or disability;

AND,

WHEREAS, Given the Commission's essential function, duty and responsibility to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all the citizens of the Commonwealth, it is only right and fitting that we encourage the good people of Kentucky to amend Section 25 of the Kentucky Constitution which currently reads:

Ky Const § 25 Slavery and Involuntary Servitude Forbidden

Slavery and involuntary servitude in this State are forbidden, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.

AND,

WHEREAS, There should be no place for any provision in our State Constitution or statutes which permit "slavery," even if it be limited to "punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted."

AND,

WHEREAS, All forms of slavery are cruel, repugnant and immoral, regardless of any circumstances, including the conviction of a crime;

AND,

WHEREAS, In this time of national mourning and reflection over the tragedy of the racially motivated church killings in Charleston, South Carolina, it is incumbent on our society to seek out and expunge from our laws, practices and customs all vestiges of the cruel and immoral institution of slavery;

AND,

WHEREAS, Any reference to "slavery" in Section 25 of the Kentucky Constitution should be expressly limited to its unconditional prohibition;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights stands with and all civil and human rights advocates that promote civil and human rights and all Kentucky citizens of goodwill, to encourage and recommend that the General Assembly pass appropriate legislation to begin the process of amending Section 25 of the Kentucky Constitution to remove any reference to, or suggestion that, slavery is acceptable for any reason in Kentucky, including as a punishment for crime.

AND, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,

That a copy of this Resolution be presented to the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission for distribution to each member of the Kentucky General Assembly and to the Governor of Kentucky and also incorporated into the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights in Louisville, Kentucky on August 20, 2015;

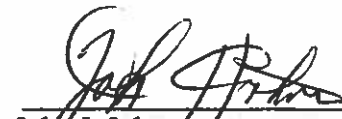
BE IT SO RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 20TH day of August, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Fifteen and in the 223rd year of the Commonwealth.

On Behalf of the Commission:



George W. Stinson
Commission Chair

Attest:



John J. Johnson
Executive Director

*Resolution in Support of Amending
Section 25 of the Kentucky Constitution
No.: 082015-2*