



April 25, 2018

To Colorado Senators/Representatives:

We the undersigned Colorado faith leaders express our unequivocal support for the Concurrent Resolution HCR18-1002 to Abolish Constitutional Slavery that will refer a measure to the 2018 Colorado ballot that abolishes slavery in Colorado by striking the language “except as a punishment for a crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted,” from Article II, Section 26 of the Colorado State Constitution.

This language in Article II, Section 26 of the Colorado State Constitution is archaic – it was written in the nineteenth century, during a period in our country’s history when not all people were treated with human dignity, nor were all people seen as human. Now in the twenty-first century, it is time to dismantle this symbol of racial division. As Colorado, we must take hold of this crucial opportunity to be the state that leads our nation towards truly providing and protecting freedom for all.

Freedom and equality are fundamental Colorado values, which ought to be reflected in our state constitution. All Coloradans deserve to have both freedom and equality assured to them, and removing the exception in the Colorado constitution is the first step in exercising our values for all.

Our Colorado communities, families, schools, and places of worship must focus on healing racial divides. Healing begins with removing racially dividing symbols that are no longer a part of our identity as Coloradans; this process will allow us to work towards unity with an identity founded in freedom and equality.

As people of faith, we believe that slavery is not a human value. We believe that no one is a slave – with no exceptions! Now is the time to strike the archaic language contained within our Colorado constitution and begin the process of healing racial divides to unify and strengthen our community.

In many of our sacred texts we are called to stand as witnesses when injustice occurs or when our leaders have the opportunity to choose freedom for our communities. We will be sending a team of clergy and faith leaders to stand as witness when this bill is heard. We pray and hope that you will do the righteous thing and let the people vote. We are counting on and trusting you to do so.

Signed by 249 Colorado clergy and faith leaders (attached).

*Unlocking the Power of People*  
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A MEMBER OF THE PICO NATIONAL NETWORK