

From: [Jeremy Hays](#)
To: [SOS Elections * SOS](#)
Subject: Ballot Measure Public Comment: M112 Fiscal Impact
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 12:59:25 PM

Dear Secretary Fagan:

I am writing as a PAC Director for the Yes on Measure 112 campaign to file comments regarding the fiscal impact statement. We believe the original draft offered by the Oregon Department of Administration Services was a more accurate assessment.

Original draft:

“This measure will have no financial effect on either state or local government expenditures or revenues.”

The current draft includes language intended to address concerns raised by the Oregon Department of Corrections. However, the available evidence does not support the conclusion.

Amended version:

The financial impact to state and local expenditures and revenues is indeterminate. The measure removes language allowing slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime. The measure does not require additional state government revenues or expenditures however the impact of the measure will depend on potential legal action or changes to inmate work programs.

Participants in Oregon prison work programs are already paid a wage, and those programs will continue if voters approve removing the language. In recent years, three states - Colorado, Nebraska, and Utah have removed similar language from their constitutions with no major impact on their prison work programs.

Oregon is not alone in referring this amendment to voters, at least five other states will have the same issue on the ballot. States approving this amendment in November will join the majority of states - including Washington - that have no exception clause for slavery and involuntary servitude enshrined in their state constitution.

Given that a majority of states have no exception to slavery or involuntary servitude, one would expect to find evidence that the concerns raised by the Department of Corrections have manifested in one or more of those states. However, there is no evidence.

The Oregon Department of Corrections referenced a 2020 Colorado lawsuit filed after voters approved an amendment to remove the slavery exception. However, that lawsuit was dismissed by the judge.

We believe the initial fiscal impact statement issued by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services is more accurate than the current version and urge you to approve the original version for the final statement.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Hays
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