



**SUPPORTING REPEAL OF THE 'EXCLUSION CLAUSE' IN SECTION 1  
OF THE THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

**2016-2**

*WHEREAS*, Section 1 of the Thirteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides that “neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States;” and

*WHEREAS*, the American Correctional Association decries the historical applicability of slavery an involuntary servitude as acceptable punishment for those convicted of crimes; and

*WHEREAS*, in its “Code of Ethics” the American Correctional Association expresses that it “expects of its members unfailing honesty and respect for the dignity and individuality of human beings;” and

*WHEREAS*, the “Declaration of Principles” of the American Correctional Association stipulates that we have “a special responsibility to protect from harm those who are involuntarily under our care and control” and that “contemporary standards for health care, offender classification, due process, fire and building safety, nutrition, personal well-being and clothing and shelter must be observed;” and

*WHEREAS*, the American Correctional Association believes that periods of incarceration should be utilized to provide activities that promote pro-social behaviors, community integration and economic status through work education, vocational training, counseling, medical, mental health care and restorative justice programs; and now

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the American Correctional Association finds the ‘Exclusion Clause’ of Section 1 of the Thirteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to be inconsistent with its basic founding principles and standards; and now

***THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the American Correctional Association supports amendment of the U.S. Constitution to repeal the ‘Exclusion Clause.’

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This resolution was adopted by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the 146<sup>th</sup> Congress of Correction in Boston, MA on August 9, 2016.