

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2026 SESSION

MFF Action is a political advocacy organization lobbying lawmakers, organizing community members, and transforming carceral narratives as we seek to end pre-trial detention and stop the harms of the immigration detention system.



PRE-TRIAL TRANSPARENCY



INTENTIONAL RELEASE & DETAIN



END SLAVERY

Ending prison slavery positions Minnesota as a national leader in fairness, accountability, and second chances — creating a system that supports families, respects human dignity, and promotes safer communities for everyone.



JUSTICE FOR ALL

BILL DESCRIPTION

END SLAVERY IN MINNESOTA

Why it Matters: Minnesota law allows incarcerated people to be compelled to work for wages as low as \$0.25 an hour — a practice permitted by the state constitution and one that deepens poverty, destabilizes families, and undermines public safety.

Low wages and forced labor extract an estimated \$100 million each year from Minnesota's poorest families and communities while increasing financial instability after release.

What's in the Bill: This bill would eliminate the constitutional allowance of slavery as punishment for a crime, requiring incarcerated workers be paid real wages. Aligning prison labor with fair compensation and meaningful job training will strengthen reentry outcomes, increase restitution to victims, and reduce cycles of incarceration by ensuring incarcerated workers can support their families and save for housing, transportation, and basic needs upon release. It also promotes public safety: Participation in paid work and work-release programs has been shown to reduce reincarceration, improve post-release employment, and decrease violence inside correctional facilities.

What it Will Do: By pairing fair wages with workforce development in high-demand sectors and higher education pathways, the bill prepares people for successful reintegration into communities while strengthening the economy.

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TALKING POINTS

END SLAVERY IN MINNESOTA

- **Economic Cost:** Prison labor wages steal \$100 million annually from Minnesota's poorest families and communities, increasing poverty and instability.
- **Public Safety:** Forced labor and inadequate wages increase recidivism. Nearly 80% of released individuals are re-arrested within five years, often due to poverty-driven desperation.
- **Victim Impact:** Real wages dramatically increase restitution payments, providing more meaningful repair and reducing cycles of violence.
- **Racial Inequity:** Black and Native American individuals are over-represented in Minnesota's prison system and face systemic barriers to stability when released.