

Testimony in support of SB 235, 234, 241, and 756.

My name is Bay Cartier, I am a 5 year Portland resident (originally from Seaside, OR) and a 4th year undergraduate student currently enrolled in the Community Development program at PSU. I am here to voice my strong opinion in support of the four interconnected bills (SB 235, 234, 241, and 756) that are being considered today.

The passing of Senate Bills 235, 234, 241, and 756 is an imperative step towards the development of a rehabilitative and social-capital building carceral system. The passing of these bills, and the execution of higher education programs would undoubtedly reduce recidivism, through empowering adults in custody (AIC's) with the skills necessary to join the workforce and adjust back into society more seamlessly and comfortably. In addition to workforce oriented skills, these programs are crucial in providing the opportunity for AIC's to support each other within a community whose main goal is to cultivate knowledge and life within oneself. There is no doubt that the passing of these bills would result in a win-win situation for everyone involved.

In taking the course: *UNST 421 Higher Education in Prison* here at PSU, I had the opportunity to work closely with a handful of women who are enrolled in the higher education program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville. Overall, this was a very eye opening experience for me, as it gave me direct insight into the truly life-changing nature of these types of programs for the women in custody there. I worked closely with a woman in custody who designed a research proposal for the development and implementation of improved HVAC systems for the prison, in response to general poor air circulation and the COVID-19 pandemic. How can we expect AIC's to be truly functional citizens post-release without programs like these? In consideration of these bills, we have an opportunity to take a step towards a more regenerative, and healing carceral system for both the individuals on the inside, and the families and citizens on the outside.

I applaud the Senate Committee Members for their wisdom in authorizing this legislation.

I respectfully urge you, Senator Dembrow, Senator Thomsen, Senator Gelser, Senator Gorsek, Senator Robinson, and all others involved, to support this very important legislation.

Thank you.