

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation,
My name is Lauren Shindler and I am a seventeen year old resident in Multnomah County.

I am testifying today in support of SB 571.

I was raised to value democracy and civic participation, the key to many of our state and national advancements. Injustice comes from ignoring and disenfranchising stakeholders in our system. Incarcerated Oregonians have a right to democracy and civic participation. When our elections make decisions about their lives, it is unacceptable not to hear their voices. Oregon's criminal legal system incarcerates Black, Latinex, and young people disproportionately, effectively and unjustly disenfranchising them. These are the folks who have to be part of the conversation if we're going to strive for equity for all Oregonians. SB 571 supports the civil rights of mothers, veterans, and all incarcerated folks who have crucial experiences to add to civic conversations, and whose voices have a right to be heard. SB 571 will touch countless people, change lives, and fight against a democracy that does not speak for all of us, but should. Support Oregon's civil rights. Please pass SB 571 to the floor with a do-pass recommendation.

Thank you,

- Lauren Shindler