



TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation
FROM: Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
DATE: March 11, 2021
RE: Support for SB 571

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mae Lee Browning and I am testifying on behalf of OCDLA.

The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is a nonprofit professional association for experts, private investigators, and attorneys who represent Oregon's children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, adults in criminal proceedings at the trial and appellate level, as well as civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon.

OCDLA supports SB 571.

SB 571 allows incarcerated people in prisons, jails, and youth correctional facilities to vote. Those who are incarcerated are human beings in our community and they are impacted by the laws passed by the legislature. People of color and poor people are disproportionately incarcerated. The mass incarceration and disenfranchisement of people of color is rooted in this country's racist origins.

SB 571 is one step towards dismantling our racist policies and valuing all human beings. SB 571 embodies our core democratic principles. Restoring the right to vote to incarcerated individuals also helps to strengthen the community bonds needed for their successful integration back into our community.

OCDLA urges your support for SB 571. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

###