

Re: SB 191 Reduction in Sentencing

I am writing on behalf of my son, Joseph, who is incarcerated at Snake River Correctional Institution. He was taken into custody at 19-years-old and will return home after his 30th birthday (July 2027).

Under measure 11, Joseph was sentenced to over 11 years without the opportunity to earn good time. I simply cannot fathom that we lock up young adults knowing that the brain does not fully develop until at least 28-years-old.

Lengthy sentences do not provide a safer community. The separation and disconnect of family and friends create even more isolation. This leaves the adult in custody an outcast by the time they are released back into their community. A system set up for failure. The longer the sentence, the harder it is to secure a job and housing.

SB 191 is asking for equality, mirroring what is already in place for other AICs. We are asking that all adults in custody (excluding some person-to-person violent offenses) have access to the same privilege. Earned good time.

I know that giving my son (along with other AICs) this opportunity will put some hope and zest back into his life behind bars. SB 191 gives the gift of hope, a morale booster. A chance to recover and discover that they can work toward great things while lowering their recidivism rate.

Please help us push this bill through legislation. It is time we turn it around.

Respectfully,
Dawn Tyree Human Rights Activist and mother doing hard time on the outside