

With the utmost respect Senate and House Committee members,

I write to you regarding a very special and dear friend of mine that holds a dear place in my heart, that desires to make a true change in his life, but has spent way to much time behind prison walls due to measure 11. He is finishing his 11 year sentence and is almost 36 years old. He has goals for his future and is determined to never look back. As a first time offender he was caught up in your system of brokenness due to measure 11.

This bill that was established in 1994 should have never been, or should have had better implications or other restrictions in place for offenders, especially first time offenders. I'm anorak not only for him but as a professional in the criminal justice system. Sending someone to prison for this amount of time for the first time serves no purpose to them, the families, the victims, the communities, or the tax payers.

Abolishing this bill will be the best thing that Oregon can do fir the future if your state. People need to be given an opportunity to make changes in their lives, to repair damages done to others, to be rehabilitated, restored to their families, communities, and to prove to their victims that they can be redeemed. They need to be given ample time to heal, to claim victory over the lost time, and make right the things they lost. They can't do that from prison for all those years that they sit their becoming nothing, learning nothing, they can only learn so much, thankfully my loved one is strong and educated and has a strong support system in his family that he thrives but not everyone has that. If you keep this bill in place many will die from this system, they will die of poverty in their minds and hearts and their families will be traumatized give them a chance to prove to society that they can be redeemed with counseling, education, work skills, a new life.

Measure 11 gives no opportunity for reduces sentences, no good time, leaves people with no rewards for doing good, makes them feel unregarded. Programs are what thrive and to give programs you should give back rewards. Abolish this law it's wrong, let these people come home I'm begging you so many people need this to pass we need it to pass his family needs it to pass many families need it to pass.

Thank you members of the House