

I'm writing in regards to my brother Trinidad Ramos #15393910, who currently resides in Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution. My whole life I've watch him grow to be the man he is today, smart, funny, loving, well mannered, honest, trusting, helpful and would do anything for the ones he loves. He has made some not so great decisions putting him in a place where he pays for those mistake, but his mistakes can not be what defines him as a person. We all make mistakes, we all make mistakes more than once a day. Should that define us? No it shouldn't. So why should we punish him longer than what is needed for his mistake? My brother has been through more than one man should ever go through in his life. However, it's not just him it has been tough on. It has taken its toll on our whole family emotionally but for his son it has taken an even bigger toll. It's like like always missing that one person who should be here with us. Locking him away to "teach him his lesson" does nothing. All it does is break a family apart for more years than is needed. To have him home would mean so much. He is a caring brother and uncle. My children have grown up not knowing their uncle and it's pretty sad. Give all men and women a chance before throwing the book at them and hiding them away. Every person has the ability to change and in all the years I've watched my brother grow into the man he is today he has changed, all for the better. He has become wiser, more aware of his consequences with every decision he makes and more focused on what life has to offer. Being behind bars and walls does not help him grow. They have limited resources and what resources are offered cost more than an AIC or their family can pay. Reducing the sentences for men and women who have measure 11 on their records give them all hope and motivation to improve. Shows them that people care and they are not forgotten. To have my brother home would bring my family peace, happiness and hope. He deserves to be given a chance at living his life the way our mom raised him to live it. He needs to be with the ones who love him. He has a home, job and family all waiting for him upon his coming home. It takes the individual to stay motivated to do good but it takes support from others to show them why the motivation needs to keep going. We have always supported my brother and been there no matter what he has gone through in life but to watch his life get wasted away sitting in a cell because of the measure 11 making his time mandatory for so many years is absurd. He has paid enough for his mistake and it's time to let him come home and be on the right path.

from a sister missing her brother
Yolanda Guzman