

3-20-2021

First I would like to thank all of you for taking the time to hear our testimonies and the SBPI For Measure 11.

My name is Niya Bennett I was convicted of Manslaughter in the 1st degree. When I was first booked in county the charge I was facing was Criminal negligent homicide, however my DA took my case to the grand jury and up'd my charge to Manslaughter in the first degree. I did not go to trial because I knew my negligence caused the death of my son Andre who was only four years old at the time.

I was a single mother of two. Trying to make ends meet and had a graveyard job, No amount of time I received would change the outcome of a tragedy to my family, Not only did my daughter lose her best friend and brother but also her mother.

I am not a drug addict or an alcoholic, I was a mother with little help and two kids who needed me, after taking my daughter to school on the morning of October 24th July I took a nap, woke up to the side of my bed on fire, Till this day Moore knows how it was started, I told my son to go outside, my first mistake was

Not grabbing him and running out of the Apartment, My second mistake was trying to put the fire out, my third mistake was assuming my son was outside cause I saw the front door open, I tried to take the mattress out, I couldn't pull it all the way dropped it and ran for help, I was looking for my son outside, by the time I realized he was still inside I couldn't get in, my son passed away from the smoke, my crime was not intentional, I will spend my life in jail for not protecting my son.

The DA or other people can say what they think but I knew I was the best mom I could be and a great mother.

Manslaughter in the first degree, 15 months sentence 10 years Day For Day! My daughter suffered more than me going from home to home, Thank God she ended up with family, her dad's side, as you can imagine isn't supportive of me having a relationship with her due to her brother's death my children do have the same father who was deported to Mexico, I haven't seen my daughter or spoke to her since she was 8 and she is about to be 13 this year, my cut date is 8.21.2025

Since I have been incarcerated I worked the mandatory 6 months in the kitchen then I was blessed to interview and get the job at the DMV call center they have here at Coffee Creek, I am a lead and have worked for the call center for 5 years.

Even though I have a day for day sentence I make the choice to keep my clear conduct stay out of trouble and learn new skills to be successful.

For when I Parole, I will Parole to Marion County and want to apply at the DMV call center in Salem.

There is so much to lose if we choose to cut out, like visits and children events, I've never been a trouble maker and even though I don't get to see my daughter, when I do get to see her I want her to know I took my time to better myself and learn new skills to be successful.

I think that the AIC's sentenced under Measure 11 and choose to do their time right should get the chance to earn good time.

If I was to be given the chance to have good time, I'll be able to be there for my daughter when she graduates high school, try to

and make new memories with her to go to court and ask for visitation, my daughter is also a victim and doesn't deserve to suffer anymore.

Everything I do is for her.

Thank you again for your time this means so much to me and my family that you all are taking time to hear our testimony.

- Niya Bennett -