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Dear Senate Committee,

I would like to share with you the thought process of a young man coming to prison with a 20 year measure-11 sentence. I'm now 35 years of age and have been incarcerated for 15 years... During my incarceration I've had some major up's and down's and I've made great strides to become a better man, husband, brother, son, friend and all together a better human being, but to be completely honest it wasn't always that way... When I got to prison I had no direction and plus I thought I knew it all, as all 20 year old boys do. All I knew is that I had a long sentence ahead of me and I had the mind set that no matter what I did it didn't matter because my release date wouldn't change because I was measure-11, I was day for day. So I did what I wanted... I started fighting other inmates, staff and caused havoc around me because I didn't know any better... I thought I knew it all, plus what was the incentive to do good. Doing good wasn't going to earn respect from the other inmates, so I did what most young inmates do, try like hell to fit in and don't worry about the time because my Nov 2025 date won't change. It's sad but it's true. I am now older and embarrassed of my young self. To be completely honest measure-11 is dangerous

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For the mind set of inmates, Plus it makes Prisons dangerous for AIC's and staff alike. Measure-11 sentences make AIC's unpredictable because they feel like they have nothing to lose. Yes it makes the Community's safer of these people at the time, but at what cost? All of these AIC's will be released back to our communities once their sentence is over.

So I'd like to take a better look at the problem we have in front of us. Day for Day sentences. Once I'm done with this I hope it makes your thoughts on this to say YES to (Senate Bill 191). I think it's for the betterment of all 3 Parties... AIC's, Prison staff and our Communities. If a person is sentenced to 10 years for vehicular man slaughter under Measure-11, with this S.B. 191 that AIC would have the opportunity to save 2 years on that 10 year sentence. Again this is an opportunity, it doesn't mean it just happens... The AIC will have to earn the good time. This is called being case load compliant, meaning the AIC will be working, take classes like (A-A, N-A, Breaking barriers, Art of communication, GED classes, college classes, BH's classes or whatever the AIC's counselor would ask of her or she. And every 6 months the AIC would receive a 6 month review that says there are case load

Compliant or not... Here is a copy of what this  
Earned time 6 month looks like that we get already.  
But this is how the AIC would earn good time with  
(S.B. 191), Plus these are the ways to keep AIC's  
engaged in classes that will help them gain insight  
and learn skills that will help better themselves for  
the future. Again this will be a AIC's choice and if  
an AIC chooses not to be case load compliant then  
they won't earn their good time.

I wanna hit close to home with some of you.  
Lets imagen for a second that one of these AIC's  
gets out of Prison and becomes your neighbor.  
Lets say this person did have a 10 year sentence  
and he saved 2 years and got out after 8 years, but  
he or she has remarkable insight of themselves and  
skills to be a productive member of society because  
they had to take classes while incarcerated to  
save 2 years and they got their GED and learned  
some job skills. Would you want that person to  
be your neighbor after 8 years with those  
skills or that person after 10 years with no  
type of skills, taking a chance on that time bomb?  
Regardless this person could be your neighbor, so  
lets get them engaged and learn how to be a more  
productive member of society.

Believe me, I see both sides here ... I don't have any illusions about the fact that many of us have harmed or hurt others, but those of us that have worked on ourselves to become better people feel a degree of wisdom from the adversity of prison that otherwise wouldn't be there. I have personally dedicated the rest of my life to love, compassion, respect and a life of non-violence. I know many of us can't change our past and our futures are untold, but that should give all of us a genuine sense of hope and peace because we can change the trajectory of keeping our communities safer, and our prisons safer by saying Yes to S.B. 191 ... Honestly it can accomplish so much ... Just as sun makes ice melt, this new found hope can help our mistrust, misunderstanding and hostilities evaporate.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely AIC, Christopher Blackwell

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