

I am writing in support of SB 191.

The extreme sentence of 25 years with no time off deflates a person and they can lose hope. After that length of time parents, siblings and friends could all be dead, therefore providing no support upon being released. They may have no place to go with a felony on their record. The current message of mandatory minimums with no good behavior reductions says to them "you are permanently branded and disqualified from compassionate inclusion in society. Your past mistake defines you and nothing you do to improve yourself will ever matter."

I believe there are many benefits to passing SB191. First it will provide AIC's encouragement to be on their best behavior and provide an incentive to work at the prison and to take classes to earn a college degree. It will provide them with hope, potentially shortening their sentence and allowing them to enter society sooner. Good behavior reductions would say to AIC's, "You are still a human being. You can benefit from better behavior and contributing to society. We want to offer you a conditional second chance."

When they have been given the hope for a better future and a shorter sentence, their attitude will change for the better. They will set higher goals for when they get out and they will help others around them reach for their goals as well. They will have the opportunity to become contributing members of society.

I sincerely believe there are many AIC's that could be benefiting society now, instead of us supporting them with our tax dollars. Measure 11 has done a great injustice by not allowing judges to issue sentences based on each individual person's case.

Please pass SB 191 to benefit those who are eligible for this program, and for their families.