

Re: SB 191 Reduction in sentencing.

“All we are asking for is a fair chance for people to earn good time for good behavior”

Dear Senate Committee,

I am writing to you to implore you to vote yes on SB 191. My fiancé is incarcerated at Snake River Correctional Institution. He was convicted of a Measure 11 crime. He was taken into custody at 39 years old and will return home when he is 64 years old.

My fiancé is a kind and loving person. He was an Army Ranger who gave his best in his service to his country and often his family was a secondary consideration. My fiancé has no prior criminal record. Under Measure 11, he was sentenced to 25 years without the opportunity to earn good time. It takes away our chance to have children together and be a family. We want his parents to have grandchildren to love also. By the time he is released from prison, his parents may not be alive to see them. He will not be around to take care of his parents when they get old also.

Earning Good time provides provide a benefit for the community by reducing recidivism rates and improving post-release employment opportunities as well as to decrease in the total correctional population, improving prison conduct, and contributing to system-wide fiscal savings. Properly designed good time programs are thought to improve institutional discipline, reduce the recidivism risks posed by returning prisoners, and save taxpayers money.

Earning Good Time / Sentence Reduction is an incentive system that would change the moral of the majority within the prison walls. It would give them a reason not to fight, respect others, take classes, hold a job in the prison and encourage others to do the same. By changing the moral within the prisons, it would also create a safer environment for the prison employees.

SB 191 gives the gift of hope, a morale booster; a chance to recover and discover that they can work toward great things, which will lower their recidivism rate.

Please help us push this bill through legislation. It is time we turn it around.

Respectfully,

Bride-to-be waiting, for her fiancé to come back to her