

This is in support of SB 191.

The extreme sentence of 25 years with "no time off" leaves a person hopeless, giving them no reason to improve themselves. After that length of time everyone they know, including family will be gone, therefore providing no support upon release. They may not be able to secure a job or housing as a felon. 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."

There are many benefits to passing SB191. First it will provide AIC's encouragement to be on their best behavior, provide an incentive to work a job at the prison, take classes pertinent to their crime and show them how to behave in a manner acceptable at all times. Good behavior is only the beginning of earning good time. It will provide them with hope to potentially shortening their sentence and allowing them to enter society as improved humans. Good behavior reductions would say to AIC's, "You are still a human being. You can benefit from better behavior and contribute to society." It is offering them 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 be encouraged to help others around them reach for their goals as well. They will have the opportunity to become contributing members of society with no risk of recidivism. They will be your neighbors someday and it would be a great advantage to have them restored emotionally and have them become a positive active member of society. We don't need the state supporting them with our tax dollars when they could be paying taxes to help the state. Measure 11 has done a great injustice by not allowing judges to issue sentences based on each individual person's case. Help put Measure 11 back to its original intent by the people, to imprison the violent criminals with 25 years and no time off; but allow those who have been evaluated, are not violent or likely to repeat, to receive time off for earned behavior.

Measure 11 needs to be revamped, my son is not violent, has learned his lesson, will not repeat his crime and deserves to earn good time. Please pass this bill ~ and make it retroactive for those who deserve it. Thank you for your consideration!