

RE: SB 191

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation,

My name is Alyson Malcolm, and my fiancé Guage Lee Gray is currently an inmate at Mill Creek Correctional Facility, housed under the Oregon Department of Corrections. I am writing this letter to you to show my support for SB 191, which will allow those who have been charged with Measure 11 offenses the ability to earn “Good Time”, and for this change to be retroactive. I am strongly in favor of this bill being passed, as I believe every future parole-eligible inmate deserves to obtain the incentive of earlier release because they’ve behaved well while incarcerated. I am supporting the group “Time Does Not Fit the Crime”, who is diligently working to get this bill reviewed and passed by all necessary parties.

I believe that by passing this bill, the prisons of Oregon would see a great reduction of violence. By allowing all inmates the opportunity of an early release based on good behavior, inmates who were charged with Measure 11 offenses will feel incentivized to stay out of trouble and take every opportunity to better themselves. Many Measure 11 offenders feel like they do not need to behave positively, as they are currently serving a sentence that they cannot change by acting favorably. These inmates feel as though their sentence is out of their control, and act aggressively as a result. By passing this bill, you will help increase the safety and security in the Oregon prison system.

Every person deserves a second chance, and that includes inmates such as my fiancé. In 2015, Guage pled guilty to 2nd degree manslaughter after causing a single-car accident while intoxicated, killing his best friend and girlfriend as a result. Despite living with this pain and guilt every day, he continues to look ahead and make a better life for himself. He is currently in an electrical apprentice program, and will be receiving his electrician journeyman license in the coming months. If you pass this bill, Guage can come home and begin his new and productive life. Upon his release, Guage plans to share his story at local schools and discuss the dangers of drinking and driving. With your help, he can have the power to reach more young and impressionable people, which has the potential to save more lives.

It cannot be an easy task having others livelihoods in your hands, but we appreciate you hearing our pleas. I hope that you strongly consider the benefits of passing bill SB 191. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ms. Alyson Taylor Malcolm