

Hi, my name is Angelica Jackson. I am the sister to Bobby Jackson, who has been incarcerated since December 17, 2013. My brother has always been a great person. He was an outstanding athlete throughout high school, he passed up multiple scholarships to join the United States Marine Corps. During active duty in the Marine Corp my brother was injured. His injury led to long term chronic pain, MRSA, multiple surgeries, and a prescription to long term opioid pain medication. My brother was medically retired with a honorable discharge due to this injury and left him with a permanent disability. My brother came home from serving his country in the Marine Corp with a VA check and an addiction! My brother was bring prescribed very large amounts of opioid medications and due to the addiction he was taking to much and when he would run out he would get very sick. I would witness my brother in the fetal position shaking, sweating, crying without these medications. He was suffering and I didn't know how to help him. During this dark time my brother welcomed his daughter into the world. Unfortunately, my brother could not care for his daughter when he was feeling as he would describe it, "like he was dying," so he did what he felt he had to do to get well enough to care for his newborn baby. My brother robbed three pharmacies to get the opioid medication he needed to feel better and well enough to care for his daughter. My brother was caught and never once denied anything. My brother is an honest man and felt that honesty would do him well. Had my brother not admitted to the robberies there was a chance he could have got off with a lessor charge, but that isn't my brother. Not then and still not to this day. My brother is an honest, strong, hard working man. My brother had no previous convictions on his record and due to his crimes being Measure 11 crimes, his story did not matter in the courts. The judge felt very sorry for my brother and told him he wished there was more he could do for him but the judge stated, "my hands are tied, due to Measure 11." My brother was automatically disqualified from Veterans Court due to Measure 11. All my brothers honesty, his service to this country, his addiction during serving in the Marine Corp did not matter to the courts. Even if it did matter, it couldn't matter because our state does not let the judge hear the stories of these people and decide what is best for them. They are automatically handed a maximum minimum amount of time no matter the circumstances! This has to stop, how many families and kids have to suffer before we take a stand? My niece has never had her dad. My brother was incarcerated 2 months after she was born and she is turning 8 this year. From the beginning of his time incarcerated he started parenting classes, school classes, and many other things to better himself as a person and a dad in hopes that someone would see how good he was doing and give him a chance but again, Measure 11 does not allow that. My niece is not the only one missing her dad, my kids are missing their uncle. My oldest daughter didn't have a father figure in her life at a young age, she had my brother to look up to as a father figure. She is graduating high school this year and can't believe he won't be there for it. My mom has almost died twice while he has been incarcerated. Her health has declined so much and no matter how hard he tries to do good he won't get the chance at a lessor sentence. We need change in our justice system. He has been incarcerated for almost 8 years for 3 robberies and never touched anyone. Yet, he has watched people with worse charges come in and leave before him. How is this a fair and equal justice system? It's not, it's discriminating to hear about this let alone for him to see it. Vote yes on SB 191 and make the changes to Measure 11 retroactive, current AIC's deserve the same chance to earn good time as anyone else. Thank you for listening to my testimony today. God bless