

My name is Jeremy Lingbeck, and I'm currently serving a mandatory, day for day, sentenced under measure 11. Like others I was railroaded through our fixed justice system, and my charges were ran 2 concurrent one consecutive. I have thought all day about what points I wanted to touch on and how to put them into words. It took me another hour to think about how I would like to start this letter, because to society we are nothing anymore and our opinions don't matter. So I am just going to jump right into it, and I am hoping my voice will be listened to with open hearts and minds.

I am writing in favor of SB191, and keeping it with the retro activity. Measure 11 is too harsh of a sentence particularly with first time offenders with no previous record what so ever. I personally along with many others don't agree with measure 11, again particularly for first time offenders. As much as I would love to see measure 11 gone or at least a major over haul/reform we are just talking about adding good time behavior reduction, same as other inmates are able to earn and being retroactive. This would be a good and just way to begin with long over due reform.

I believe in giving second chances, because without at least a second chance how are we supposed to show or prove we have changed for the better? You can't take the failure of one's second chance and compare it to others. IE While some will fall and re offend, that doesn't mean we all will. Each person is different, each person makes the choice to never be locked up again. For what one person fails the next person can and will succeed and accomplish becoming a productive member of society. Before my incarceration I was in charge of hiring at my job. I have hired ex felons, to give them that second chance when most people wouldn't. What I don't agree with is setting us up for failure by having us wait 6, 12, 20 or even 30 yrs while being incarcerated with no incentives or any reasons to behave, why? There is no goals or motives for us to start changing the way we think about our actions and /or consequences. Then we're thrown back into society, after years and years of training through a 'school' full of negative reinforcement and violent behavior, the mental stress of trying to stay safe and just do our time, then expected to just bounce back?

I don't have resources in here, but I hear we have a nation wide problem, including Oregon on our mass incarceration and over crowded prisons (and now to make it worse they are closing 3). I would almost set there mandatory long drawn out sentences are the leading cause of the over crowding, it's a giant clog in the system. To pass a good time bill with out being retroactive, won't help the current over crowding in the prison system. I hear so many people talk about these problems, but nobody seems to do anything to remedy it. You, respectfully, have the perfect opportunity to help fix two of the biggest issues that we are facing today.

Passing SB191 to include being retroactive will also give the first step for positive reinforcement, because you have a new added incentive and a rewarding goal in of itself. Like a good feeling of accomplishment goals knowing you have the same good time option as other inmates. To pass SB191 with out being retroactive would leave yet another negative reinforcement knowing you will still serve every day. It would leave some thinking why? Am I not good enough for a second chance without failure. We get a review every six months, and see the time we are NOT eligible for, that is just another 'kick in the stomach'. It would feel like an accomplishment as well as continued incentives to change by knowing we could earn good time. This is a positive reinforcement, the mind starts to change thinking, positive thoughts and a continued incentives. Passing this bill to include being retroactive will get inmates to re think before acting out in a violent manner. They say we need to be rehabilitated, but with no good time the incentive isn't there for many. This lack of reward/incentive only leads more negative and violent behavior. We are already considered to be the worst of the worst. People with a negative process need reconditioning, therefore positive incentives are the start. The start

to rewarding, accomplishments to be good/behave -repetition is key to changing that mind set. I believe it all plays a huge roll in rehabilitation, but it all starts with SB191 and being retroactive. With out the bill and retroactive it leaves us with the feeling of we having nothing going for us, nothing to gain and nothing to loose. That mind set isn't conducive to changing one's behavior.

The justice system does not say inmates sentenced under a mandatory sentence should not be rehabilitated. Yet those that are not sentenced as such, shall be rewarded and given an incentive to do so, as in good time. Please give everyone an equal opportunity to do as such.

Those of us that are under a mandatory sentence are already serving a great deal amount of time, and will get out at some point. Take a 12.5 yr sentence for an example, even with 20% off that's still 10 years. That is still a long time to be given a second chance at society, particularly for a first time offender with no previous criminal record.

From what I have learned being incarcerated the biggest fear, aside from trying to stay safe and alive, is that inmates have is receiving more time. The inmates that do not have a mandatory sentence will recruit someone that does have measure 11, to have him do whatever they need done without consequences to themselves. While they will reward their recruit for his doings and violent actions. For the one with mandatory sentence there is also NO CONSEQUENCES. There are no new charges brought before them for starting fights. They are day for day and segregation is nothing but a reward for their actions and/or a show of a sense of pride or some sort of negative accomplishment for his buddy just to feel/be accepted. Not to mention being locked in a cell for that long is or can be a dangerous negative reinforcement for the human mind. Take a dog for example, you lock them in a crate for a long time with no human or dog attention and their behavior can and will change for the worst and/or become fearful for life. When they feel accomplishment out of bad behavior they start feeling enjoyment and in thinking in ways counter productive to a good citizen. This way is setting them up for failure before they even leave prison. Because they feel enjoyment and a sense of negative accomplishment when they get released from segregation and or person they will continue to repeat those same behaviors. They have no positive incentive and nothing to loose mentality so in a sense there is no punishment for fighting or any kind of violent behavior.

I have personally talked to several inmates that have told me, that they are day for day and have nothing to loose. I've overheard that mentality which they feel assaulting an officer and that is not safe for staff. We have multiple staff assaults through out the year and incentives may lessen/change that. I just talked to a newer officer tonight and he told me he fears the ones that have nothing to loose and their buddies. I guess more incentives could help reduce fights and the dangers it puts on officers. Which, in turn their families. Any time you provide an incentive it's also something that can be penalized, hence encouraging good vs bad behavior. Those who truly want to change even if it's a minority percentage it's that many less situations staff will have to deal with. We, the ones who want to change and get a second chance realize staff is doing a job and has a family they just want to go home in one piece to. Any reduction in fights is good for everyone. Can you feel the pain of that officer and their family for what? An officer trying to provide for his or her own family. To sit here and say maybe from here forward is not enough, from today forward you will still have someone sentenced yesterday for the next 10, 15 to 20 yrs with nothing to loose and the negative mind set and atmosphere. Feel the pain for the one that will cross that inmate until his last day for day nothing to loose outlook.

My last point I wanted to bring up is family. When we are sentenced to these long drawn out day for day sentences it affects our family. I get that we are responsible for our own actions, and justice

shall be served, and I totally agree. I turned myself in trying to do what was right, mind you I was in a suicidal state and waived all representation and questioned for 9 hrs, that's another story. Our families are being punished as well. So pass SB191 with being retroactive will not only give us motivation, encouragement and not a feeling of complete self worthlessness but it will give our families hope and encouragement as well. I have 2 daughters and during my entire incarceration they will be going through high school years, learning how to drive, going to school dances and football games with their friends and boy friends. I will be missing all their high school years and graduation with all that said these are the things I think about every day! It also kills me and tears me up inside like something I've never felt. Some nights I wake up in the middle of the night and find my tear filled eyes. I am hoping and praying SB 191 passes with retroactive and my biggest goal is walking my daughters down the aisle. Please take all this into deep consideration and have heavy hearts for our families and giving us the opportunity to move forward with a rewarding second chance at becoming the productive part of society I know many of us are capable of.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my letter.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Lingbeck.

