

3-27-21

Senate committee members,

My name is Ryan Thomas and I am currently incarcerated at OSCI on measure eleven crimes. I'm writing to tell you the negative impact on measure eleven. For starters it completely takes away any power a judge has to weigh in any mitigating factors in a case. Prosecutors in many cases have seemingly gone rouge with absolutely no accountability. They stack on multiple charges, sometimes 30 at a time and with a day for day minimum of 60 months each, that adds up to exceed ones lifetime, even if one received a year on each one, that's still 30 years! day for day! Unfortunately this practice is all too common. These prosecutors often times refuse to accept mitigating circumstances or even if the person is even culpable in a crime! I've read dozens of cases of inmates even some with DNA evidence proving innocence and yet they're doing exceedingly long, disproportionate and disparative sentences. Many times prosecutors resort to coercive tactics. ~~saying~~ I myself was told that if I didn't take a plea for 15 years that if I took it to trial then I would get over a hundred years. I wondered how that could be for something I didn't even do. This story is not unique. There are dozens just like it. "My first offer was 27 months and I went to trial and now I'm doing 600 months" (50 years)! or "my offer was 60 months but im innocent so I went to trial and now I'm doing 350 months"

Not to mention the safety factor within the institutions. Many men incarcerated

Feel there is no hope. Those who once had hope and faith in our judicial system feel abandoned and let down by a failed and corrupt system. Inmate to inmate and staff assaults continues. The core attitude being that they're being treated like animals and never getting out so who cares. And there needs to be behavioral health classes available focusing on violence anger sex.

I'm hoping this bill passes. It's been 25 years of a failed experiment and nothing has changed.

Now I'm not saying that everyone convicted of measure eleven crimes are innocent by any means. They are repeat and habitual offenders and I'll agree, some should not be back out in the community but what measure eleven does is lumps everyone together without any room to consider special circumstances. And most people deserve a second chance and to be rehabilitated.

Thank you.

