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I respectfully write to you today regarding SB 191 which is being considered for a vote. I urge you to vote "yes" on this bill as it will provide and opportunity for adults in custody (AIC) to be eligible to receive "good time" sentence reduction for those convicted under a Measure 11 crime like me.

My first felony offense in the state and I immediately took responsibility for my crime and accepted the gracious plea deal which my prosecutor, Mr Quinn offered to me. I did not want to harm the families of my victims further by opting to have a drawn out jury trial. I was, after all, guilty.

I am into my fifth year of a fifteen year sentence. Although I feel it was a fair sentence I know that I would probably have gotten less time had my crime not occurred in Washington county, as it was a first offense. The prosecutor went so far as to confide that to me on the day of my sentencing. Getting a chance to earn good time would mean the world to me. I am very close to my family and have many friends who love and miss me very much.

During my incarceration I have been careful to follow all the rules and regulations, have kept steady employment and been involved in coordinating and leading programs such as GOGI (in Spanish) and "The Art of Communication" (in Spanish) for my fellow AIC. The experience has been challenging yet rewarding.

Now during the times of COVID these activities are on hold. My mother is about to turn 89 and I haven't seen her or my beloved great nephews since they were eight and nine years old. I would like the chance to earn a good time sentence reduction so I could at least have the hope of seeing my mother alive one last time and be present for my great nephews' teens and journey into

adulthood.

I believe the passage of SB 191 would bring this kind of hope and morale boost to so many AIC that it could revolutionize prison culture. More people would be encouraged to follow the rules inside and inspired to be on their best behavior—lessening burdens on staff who have to respond to fights, extortion incidents, etc. Earning good time would not be a signal that our crimes are any less severe, only that Measure 11 offenders are being treated fairly and with the same even hand of the law as other offenders.

Why shut the door on the possibility of earning good time on some offenders and not others? Allowing us to earn good time would give us something to look forward to and to work hard towards. This would make the prison environment safer for everyone as it would lessen the hopelessness that exists for many Measure 11 offenders.

The remorse I carry with me every day over my crime and the lessons I have learned as a result will not increase with the more time I do. The best thing I can do is to get back out into society, reclaim my position as a responsible tax paying citizen who is law abiding and try to help others to avoid making the one mistake that brought me in here, which is DUI. Attending AA meetings, sharing my experience, strength and hope and mentoring others to prevent someone else from ending up where I have would make the time reduction worth it. If I could save just one life by being active in the AA community it would not only make a difference but would also honor my victim's memory by helping to prevent events like this from happening.

I humbly ask you to consider voting yes on the bill and give us AIC a chance at redemption and the opportunity to spend more time with friends and family before it all slips away. I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Armando Gallegos

