

April 6, 2021

Dear Senators,

We support passage of SB 191, the Earning Good Time Bill, that is seeking to bring about positive changes in Oregon's prisons through reform of Measure 11.

Our family supports criminal justice reform. We believe Daniel Shoemaker could very well be the poster inmate who received one of the Harshes sentences in Marion County. They wanted to give him 144 years. On March 18, 2018, my son, Daniel Shoemaker was arrested at his house in Sweethome Or. Daniel was a non-violent, first-time offender, who had never been in trouble with the law prior to this date. Daniel received a harsh 8.5 year sentence for sexual crimes against his daughter. Daniel's case is a long and complicated cycle of events that were never revealed after his arrest. I know in my heart that his girlfriend and daughter made up the stories that put Daniel away. He was convinced to plead guilty to all crimes presented by the prosecution for a leaser sentence. Daniels's attorney did the best he could to investigative these false accusations. Our family was denied justice on all fronts. It has been over a year now since we have been able to visit Daniel at EOCl due to numerous covid 19 lockdowns. Our last in-person visit was in late October 2019. Just before Covid hit. Prior to the outbreak of the covid pandemic, we would sit in the waiting room at EOCl, waiting to be called to go through the many steps before we could visit him. At every visit, we witnessed a world of hurt in pained faces of loved ones who will never give up fighting for those Incarcerated behind bars. I remember the look on Daniels face every time we would leave. I would have to smile and choke back the tears as to not make him cry in front of the other inmates. Many family members travel hundreds of miles to see their loved ones. We are coming from Washington so it is a five hour drive one way. Many have limited funds and resources. Many will do whatever it takes to seize opportunities to have that visit that provides a small beacon of hope and sunshine in a dark world. We feel cheated when our family provides funds to Daniel, and the DOC deducts monies from his account for victims we do not know. Our family is being punished over and over again for the crimes and behaviors of others. This is not right. This is not fair. This is not justice. There is something very wrong here, and change needs to happen. Measure 11, the "One Strike You're Out" initiative, has proven to be a costly, ineffective law, with no credible evidence and proof that mandatory minimum sentences reduce crimes. We believe judges have lost all sense of purpose and power, as prosecutors dominate court proceedings and dictate the future of those being charged of crimes. Punishment and justice are not the same. Judges are losing power and control. We fear the future of judges is at risk, as they may fall by the wayside and become an unnecessary and obsolete cog in the wheels of justice. Everyone deserves a second chance. SB 191 will offer an impetus for inmates to prove that they have paid their debt to society. This bill will give hope to inmates for staying the course and changing their lives so they can be contributing members of society. We can all become better people. We can all work together to strive to make the world a kinder, more compassionate place for everyone. Daniel along with many other inmates, deserves consideration for sentence reduction. Our family urges you to stay the course, lead the way, and fight for what's right. We thank you for your positive advocacy work to reform Measure 11 with the passage of SB 191. Please support this Bill Thank you Pennie Michaud for Daniel Shoemaker 22771951