

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and member of the committee:

Please vote yes on SB191

For the first time in almost 12 years, I have a hope that my son will be able to receive the good time that he has earned but that M11 has not allowed. Please pass this bill and give hope to a people group that many have discarded or don't care about. If this bill is passed, AIC's could have something to look forward to.

This has been a long road traveled for my family. Like many others, my son was a first time offender. The incident took place when he was about 20 and he was 25 years old when he was arrested and sent to prison(in less than 30 days after his arrest). He was told by the police if he didn't tell them what they wanted to hear, they would arrest him. He was so scared. He was taught to trust the police but he found out that they were lying to him and he was too scared to tell me about it. He just wants a second chance. I think we should be helping people to get that second chance instead of lengthy sentences.

Prior to his arrest, my son had been working full time for the State of Oregon in a job that he liked. Working with people that he liked and who also liked him. He also liked cooking and playing video games like many young people enjoyed. He was kind and sweet and was a productive member of our community. Now, he's 37 years old and preparing for release within a year. We would both be so thrilled if he could come home early with 20% good-time allowance. I can say that my son has matured and thankfully, he's still a kind young man. I'm also thankful that I was able to see him every month up until the pandemic hit. Now, it's been over a year since I could hug him or kiss his cheek. We kept each other going while learning a lot about our judicial system, M11, and Dept of Corrections. My son has matured and learned a lot through this experience and he knows he does not want to be incarcerated again. Please vote yes on SB191.

Let's do everything possible to help Oregon move to a better way to handle our incarcerated. Having these lengthy prison sentences does not make our community safer it only exhausts our budget more quickly. Plus, the separation from family and friends makes someone feel more alone. Let's find ways to make a better system for Oregon. Start by voting yes on SB 191

Thank you for this opportunity to make a difference in our state

Vickie Tena for SB191