

Dear Senate Committee,

I am writing to express my support of Senate Bill 191 in the effort for all AICs to earn 'Good Time' regardless of age, race, gender, or crime in the pursuit of equal rights.

Our country has the highest incarceration rate in the world. Many thousands of people are cycled in and out of state jails or prisons every day. Extreme sentencing laws and practices are keeping people in prisons for far longer than ever before. The result is that more people are spending more of their lives in prison than at any point in our history.

Harsh sentences are not effective deterrents and they destroy a person's chance at rehabilitation, reunification with family, and reintegration into society. The effectiveness of Measure 11 to deter crime is further questioned when compared to research about mandatory minimums. Research has repeatedly disproven mandatory minimums as public safety tools. For example, a 1993 meta-analysis report compiled from 50 different studies found mandatory minimums' lengthier prison sentences produced higher rates of recidivism and a tendency for lower-risk offenders to experience more negative outcomes.

Earning 'Good Time' is vitally important since all incarcerated adults earn good time; however, under Measure 11 adults in custody (AICs) are not allowed to use it and are left with no opportunities to go in front of the District Attorney or Judge again. I support the idea that AICs should be encouraged to earn incentives and show achievements for their improvements.

Programs that allow AICs to be released early for good behavior is a cost-effective and safe way to reduce prison populations and taxpayer costs. These programs also decrease the likelihood that former AICs will commit more crimes once released. Good time provides stronger incentives for AICs to take advantage of programming and employment opportunities in prison, increases moral, and may improve prison discipline and safety, thereby providing important benefits for AICs and staff. I believe this would greatly change the whole dynamics of the Oregon Department of Corrections.

If you want to fix the Measure 11 problem, you need to utilize the Oregon Board of Parole. Years ago, the legislative body, created the board exactly for this reason; for the scenario of a 'Second Look'. They currently review all matrix cases, dangerous offenders, and those who fall under murder statutes. Utilizing the board for this function would not tie up or swamp the courts. The additional costs to employ the Oregon Board of Parole would be minimal compared to the burden placed upon the courts. The legislative body can pass a bill that will allow a judge to determine early release if an inmate has worked hard, completed educational programs, shows behavior modification, and served over half (1/2) their sentence.

In closing, I support Senate Bill 191.

Thank you,
Dominique Daliogne