

02/09/21

The Honorable Janelle Bynum, Chair
The Honorable Ron Noble, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Karin Power, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Re: Support for HB 2912

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

I support HB 2912.

My name is Carrie Ames, I was incarcerated from 2010 to 2020. During that time, I had a small claims matter filed against me that was very confusing. I had absolutely no access to legal resources to help guide me on what would be the appropriate action to take on the case. And as you may know, parties are not typically allowed to have legal representation in small claims court, and the access to legal information in the law library is so convoluted and confusing, it's near impossible to figure that stuff out on your own.

When OJRC started the Re*Membering Program I finally found support to help me understand the small claims case filed against me. This support aided in my successful reentry into the community by ensuring I had financial stability and could be mentally prepared for what to expect upon release. Had they not helped me, I may have had a much harder time getting set up with housing and transportation, factors that are very important to being able to move in a positive direction.

In addition to the assistance with the small claims case, I was also given information about county transfers and understanding what requirements I would have to complete to reinstate my driver's license through the DMV. These are essential things to be prepared for on release. The prison system is completely lacking in any other guidance for inmates.

I strongly urge you to support HB 2912.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ames