

Thank you madam chair, Vice chair and committee members for the opportunity to provide testimony and support house bill 2002

Hello my name is Dean Westwood and my pronouns are he him and his. I'm an individual with a disability who happens to serve on the board of directors for disability rights Oregon. It's important for me to share that I am an adult white male who continues to work and understand my white privilege and how that impact not only me but those around me and especially those in the BIPOC community. I am a researcher, Advocate and author on disability and incarceration amongst other things. I am an individual formerly incarcerated at Portland State Penitentiary. I am a convicted felon that was put in solitary confinement because Oregon State Penitentiary and two rivers do not have the facilities, the knowledge, the experience and or the resources to address the needs of an individual with significant disabilities, in my case quadriplegia but in other cases Behavioral or mental health. As the representative from disability rights Oregon stated earlier, this is not guesswork for hyperbole disability rights Oregon did the investigation entered into an agreement to address to be a real help setting it is abusive at Oregon State Penitentiary. I have submitted written testimony, A research report on the national ACLU entitled caged in oh, and article I was asked to write for the ACLU and a Vice news article on the abuse with individuals with disabilities face when incarcerated. I committed a Financial crime. However my life along with many others were negatively impacted and decimated under Measure 11 mandatory minimums and the lack of ability any. By that I mean, despite the fact that I had a education Adele, support and my white privilege. Those assets at my back or not enough for me to battle Measure 11. I plead guilty to four counts because I was afraid of what Measure 11 would incarcerate me for. And there's no one without great wealth that can fight against mandatory minimums and being convicted on a charge under Measure 11.

I went into prison as an independent, self-determined and healthy individual paying taxes and a resource too many in the community doing research and advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities another. I came out as an individual or totally dependent on Pur filter systems in the state to pay for everything for me

Having experiences going through the judicial system and incarceration system here in Oregon I have met many individuals from the BIPOC community who had it much worse than me and abuse from day one with their interaction with the police and the so-called justice system in Oregon.

I encourage you all to support this legislation. I appreciate all the people on here that have done research, engaged from nonprofits and been in the communities. I have lived it I have researched it and I have written about it and I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you

Sent from ProtonMail mobile