

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

We implore you to reject SB 571 and insure that it does not pass out of Committee. The idea of restoring voting rights to incarcerated felons is on its face ridiculous, and as with many other voting “reforms,” a transparently devious strategy to bolster the Democrat voter base.

Felons, by definition have been convicted of a felony – an egregious offense against their victim, as well as the people of the State of Oregon. The consequences of those actions, besides incarceration, include the revocation of certain civil rights, including the right to vote. Generally, most of these rights are restored once a convicted felon has **repaid their debt to society**.

To restore any of these civil rights prior to the repayment of this debt is an offense against the people of Oregon. This state increasingly condones criminality and bad behavior by minimizing penalties for offenses. This bill is just one more step in that direction. Crime needs to be punished. The loss of certain rights should be part of that punishment.

SB 571 should be rejected without further consideration, as it is only a detriment to this state.

Thank You,

Keith LaHaie  
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