

Dear Committee Members,

I am to ask that you support SB571/HB2355, which will restore voting rights incarcerated Oregonians.

Taking away a citizen's right to vote goes against everything our country stands for. This unjust action is rooted in racism. It only serves to silence the voices of those who have been historically excluded from having a seat at the table of our democracy. Black and Latinx people are disproportionately incarcerated in our state and therefore the people most affected by the revocation of their voting rights. Restoring voting rights is a meaningful step to dismantling institutionalized racism.

Oregon leads the country when it comes to making the vote easy and accessible. We should also lead the country in signing this bill into law. Allowing incarcerated people to vote not only causes no harm to our society, but actually benefits it. We know that when people feel connected to their community, they're less likely to return to prison in the future. Voting keeps people engaged, connected and empowered.

Please vote yes, and restore voting rights to my fellow American citizens.

Sincerely,  
Cicely Thrasher  
District 25

Co-Chair Oregon Justice Resource Center's Policy Action Network