

I read all of the testimony on this and it appears that this is a Portland-led effort. I simply do not understand why Portland has the ability to change policy for the entire state. Right now crime in Portland is on the rise, and I am not talking about important protests. I am talking about car theft, domestic violence and gun violence. At the same time we just decriminalized drugs as a state and the Portland Metro are just passed to of the largest housing measures in our history to build new housing and provide needed services. Can we just pause for a moment and let these things take shape? If we believe that housing, services, decriminalizing drugs and so forth is key to ending disparities in our system why are we not focusing on the implementation of these efforts first before moving to reducing consequences for violent offenders for some of the most awful crimes. Additionally, I support a robust set of services and educational opportunities during incarceration and upon release. However, why does engaging in these equate to a lower sentence, how is that fair to a victim. People will say they need to incentivize good behavior. How about we offer opportunities for prisoners to heal, and prepare for release while they are serving their due time. Why should it mean they get out early? And what about those who have barriers to engaging in these services – they should just sit there longer? Shouldn't it be enough that people who are wanting to atone for their crimes have the opportunity to do so – why does it give you extra credit. That said, I think there should be more services, educational opportunities and so forth, but I don't think it should reduce your sentence.

Respectfully, Lori