

Submitter: Dorene Ames  
On Behalf Of: People of Oregon  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB4075

We read almost daily how a person was wrongfully convicted and spent the major portion of their years incarcerated with criminals and denied a life of a free person- a person who participates fully in their various levels of society, community and family. During their denied freedom they lose all benefits of wage earnings and salaries creating financial disparity as a subsequent punishment of their wrongful incarcerations. I support all compensation due to the exonerated.

The history of policing has shown that once the police, and not the prosecutor, begin acting on hearsay they will pursue a singular person without investigating the actual evidence and asking essential questions to determine if others may have had more motive to commit the crime; the prosecutor then examines what police have presented and evaluates the evidence not for other possible perpetrators but if he can present the evidence in hand in such a manner to convict. It is the system that still continues whether or not it is perfect in its merits as we are told justice is delivered by the court and jury. Therefore, when mistakes in policing and prosecution occur, and justice was not served, the remedy should stand to pay the exonerated for it is the exonerated who has truly been aggrieved and robbed of their lives.

The exonerated should be compensated monetarily for ALL the injuries incurred from their conviction including legal and the mean wage of the state annualized since none among us can say what they may have achieved if they had been free for the time of their wrongful incarcerations.

Thank you for considering my testimony.