

Submitter: Eleni Kondilis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB579

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 579, the restoration of the right to vote to incarcerated Oregonians. I am grateful to be able to exercise the franchise - One of the most important rights of American citizens is the franchise—the right to vote. Originally under the Constitution, only white male citizens over the age of 21 were eligible to vote. We have expanded that right to those of all genders, all those over 18, and all races. But, we hold back that right from incarcerated persons. This disproportionately impacts Oregonians of color, as our history of racism and mass incarceration disproportionately impacts these communities. I ask that you right this wrong and restore the right to vote to all.

Thank you,
Eleni Kondilis