

Submitter: Fern Wexler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB579

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee: I enthusiastically support the restoration of voting rights to those that are currently incarcerated. I am alarmed at the racist history of the removal of voting rights from incarcerated persons across this country. Two states never took away the right to vote from those that are incarcerated, those two states are among the whitest in the country. Oregon has a long history of racial oppression. We have only just recently addressed the issue of non-unanimous jury verdicts, which was implemented to minimize the impact of minority voices in the courtroom. Restoring the right to vote will give a voice back to the many Oregonians who, for various reasons, have been voiceless. I hope that this bill passes quickly out of committee and receives unanimous support.

Thank you for taking my testimony.

Fern Wexler