

Submitter: Kassidy Hetland
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB579

RE: Support Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579
Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

I am writing to testify in strong support for Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579. The right to vote is enshrined in our constitution and fundamental to a vibrant and participatory democracy. Yet, around 12,000 people in Oregon are currently denied their right to vote, leading to the disproportionate disenfranchisement of low-income, Black, Indigenous, and Latine people. Guaranteeing the Right to Vote fulfills the promise of our democracy while improving public safety, and addressing racial and socioeconomic inequities. I know that connection to community through civic engagement while incarcerated leads to healthier communities, that voting is a civic right and responsibility, and that we can address unjust impacts of mass incarceration. I am not alone in my support for this important bill. This legislation is supported by over 40 civil rights organizations, faith-based groups, as well as dozens of currently and formerly incarcerated people. Please ensure that Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579, is passed out of committee. Thank you.