

Submitter: Robyn Tenenbaun
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB579

My name is Robyn Tenenbaum and I live in Multnomah County in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to testify in VERY STRONG SUPPORT for Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579, which will ensure every eligible Oregonian can register to vote, update their voter registration, and vote in elections based on where they resided prior to incarceration.

THIS IS A NO BRAINER. The right to vote is a fundamental right for all citizens and incarcerated adults are people. In fact, many are the most engaged and creative people I've ever met. I wouldn't have known this had I not volunteered in CRCI and Coffee Creek and seen how eager people are to stay engaged. More people need to better understand how much humanity exists within the walls of these institutions. These people are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, aunts and uncles, friends and members of our communities. They deserve the right to vote as much as any anyone.

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,

Robyn Tenenbaum