

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

January 27th, 2023

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

My name is Jasia Mosley and I live in Eugene. I am writing to testify in 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.

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.

As someone who has firsthand seen the impact of incarceration prior to and after release from family members and close friends, I know how important it is for previously incarcerated individuals to get their humanity back. Allowing rights to vote will allow Oregonians to all be included in democracy and make them feel part of the collective. Additionally it is important that we are not upholding ways to discriminate against people from participating in their government, regardless of status. Accessibility and inclusion is extremely crucial to a successful democracy and community overall.

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,

Jasia Mosley