



This testimony is on behalf of the Multnomah Democrats' Criminal Justice Study Group. We strongly support SB 517, and here is why:

When people who have been incarcerated return to our communities, we want them to succeed in starting a new life. This is good for the community and public safety, as well as for that released individual. One major difficulty for people after incarceration is getting a living-wage job. Furthermore, many of the occupations they're trying to enter or resume in their new life may require a license. Let's not create an extra burden by discriminating against people in licensing based solely on their having a criminal record. If the duties and responsibilities of the desired job have nothing to do with someone's past mistake, there is no reason licensing entities should be able to deny or revoke the needed license. It's time to prohibit this unnecessary discrimination, and contribute to reentry opportunities. Let's help people who have finished their sentence and returned to our communities to get into meaningful jobs. Vote yes for SB 517.