

Submitter: Ruth Dallas  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB520

Dear Legislators,

I strongly support measure SB 520. Keeping elderly and sick people in prison when they have almost zero likelihood of committing more crimes is cruel and unnecessary. It wastes tax dollars and clearly has no effect on reducing crime. For too long in the US we have focused on incarceration and not rehabilitation and it has proved to be exceptionally expensive and underperforms compared to societies that have serious programs to prevent crime not just extensive programs to punish people. This mindset has even led to the decision by DAs to keep people incapable of committing new crimes in expensive prison facilities instead of releasing them to their families. Let's end that now. Thank you for reading my testimony.