3/19/2023
Testimony by Tracy Zumwalt

I am in full support of SB 320- Which provides first time offenders a chance to earn good time. I agree murder and repeat offenders should not be eligible. In 1994 when the voter pamphlet was released for voting it stated ' repeat offenders and keep them locked up for a substantial amount of time'. KEY NOTE -repeat offenders. Due to some judges doing a slap on the hand we used fear to pass Measure 11 making Oregon a one strike state. Here we are decades later one of the most liberal states, allowing things like drug use being in essence 'legal' now. Yet, we want to keep first time offenders locked up w/ no chance to prove they deserve to start over in society.

My husband used to work corrections, his shift had the least amount of fights. Why? Because the AIC knew that they could earn small things for good behavior that could be taken away. Pavlov trained with positive reinforcement, treats (per se)for a desired behavior. I'm not comparing AIC's to dogs, I am saying when there is something to earn, something to look forward to, a reason to never end up in trouble again. AIC's have incentive, most first time offenders don't want to ever end up back there.

This is just allowing a certain percentage the chance to become a productive member of society again a little sooner by earning time like non measure 11 people. Long term sentencing leads to things like a institutionalized mentality actually making it harder to become a productive member of society when they do get out. That does statistically lead to higher recidivism.

First time offenders with a 'substantial amount of time' for lock up, truly does nothing to create a responsible member of society. I'd rather know my neighbor EARNED his/her way to a lesser time and doesn't want to ever be in that situation again; than a neighbor who is in and out few mos to few yrs at a time with no change.

Oregon prides itself on a liberal stance of diversity and community; why would we not want to encourage an AIC to earn that reduction?

Thank you, Sincerely, Tracy Zumwalt