

Submitter: Dawn Tyree  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB320

Dear Distinguished Committee Members,

I want to speak on the record about why I am in support of SB320.

My name is Dawn Tyree, and I am writing to you on behalf of my son, Joseph, who is incarcerated at Snake River Correctional Institution. Joe was taken into custody at 19-years-old and will return home after his 30th birthday (July 2027). The crimes Joseph was charged with took place when he was a child, not an adult. Under measure 11, Joseph was sentenced to over 11 years without the opportunity to earn good time. I simply cannot fathom that we lock up young adults knowing that the brain does not fully develop until at least 28-years-old.

Lengthy sentences do not provide a safer community. The separation and disconnect of family and friends create even more isolation. This leaves the adult in custody an outcast by the time they are released back into their community. A system set up for failure. The longer the sentence, the harder it is to secure a job and housing. SB 320 is asking for equality, mirroring what is already in place for other AICs. We are asking that all adults in custody (excluding some person-to-person violent offenses) have access to the same privilege. Earned good time. I know that giving my son (along with other AICs) this opportunity will put some hope and zest back into his life behind bars. SB 320 gives the gift of hope, a morale booster. A chance to recover and discover that they can work toward great things while lowering their recidivism rate.

Please help us push this bill through legislation. It is time we take steps to improve rehabilitation.

Respectfully,  
Dawn Tyree Human Rights Activist and mother doing hard time on the outside