

March 24, 2023

Dear Senator Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I wish to submit my support for passage of SB 320.

Like many, I have a loved one who has been incarcerated for 11 years. My brother is a non-violent, first-time offender who never had any previous experiences with criminal offenses.

During his incarceration, my brother has had time to reflect on the poor choices and unwise decisions he made many years ago. He has had opportunities to read and write about what his misguided choices have cost him and our family.

Jim has availed himself of opportunities granted to him through the Department of Corrections. He has learned to make the most and the best of difficult situations within the prison environment. Jim has exhibited compliant behavior, followed the rules and guidelines provided to him by the Department of Corrections, taken classes, grown in his faith, and embraced job opportunities to enhance his skill set. He has worked hard to remain healthy and stay abreast of worldwide events. Jim has developed friendships and working relationships with others in and out of the prison system.

My brother is a changed man. He has learned from his mistakes. Jim has earned "good time."

As a family, we believe Jim has profited by "corrections" he has made since he was incarcerated in 2012. The Department of Corrections has done its job to correct behavior. The institution has enabled Jim to achieve a degree of stability in his life that was lacking. We are grateful for this.

I urge you to thoughtfully consider passage of SB 320 to give my brother and others who have stayed the course and demonstrated appropriate institutional behavior an opportunity to have their sentences reduced.

Those who have earned good time and reductions in their sentences deserve hope for a meaningful future. We can all work together to make the world a better place.

Thank you for the good work that you do to consider changes in the criminal justice system.

*"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi*

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Harvey

