

Submitter: Kathie Ray
On Behalf Of: TDNFTC
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB320

I am in support of SB320. Good afternoon and thank you for your time. My daughter is a first-time offender under Measure 11. She has served over half, 7 seven years on a 14 year sentence. The change in her and in her thinking is truly remarkable. I, as her mother, am actually grateful that this happened and please understand my meaning. It certainly was not the crime itself but the intervention in her life because her course was certainly destructive. She has changed exponentially and has matured in a manner that we should all be proud of. The system worked! She has fully accepted and understands the costs of her actions. She has always shown great remorse and has genuinely become rehabilitated while in prison. She especially understands the cost to the victim, her children and to us. Her father will be 71 this year and we have no hope of retirement given the current law. We've been raising her children for the past 7 plus years.

It is worse than cruel to sentence a person, especially a young, first time offender and give them no hope that serving their time in a constructive, rehabilitative respectful way will afford them any chance of earning time off for good behavior. This action is now becoming detrimental to her. She is becoming institutionalized and now runs the risk of becoming a victim of the same system that saved her. I fear she will regress in her advancement if there is no opportunity for earning some time off for her good behavior.

There is a feeling of hopelessness for all of us with the law the way it is.

Please provide careful consideration and remember it is only for those that have earned it. The first time offenders that made a genuine mistake and have shown it was not a representation of who they are.

Please pass SB320 for first time offenders to earn good time so those AIC's can show they have and are taking their time and using it for what it was meant for, rehabilitation.