

Submitter: Michael Stoffey
On Behalf Of: Myself and my family
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB320

I OPPOSE SB320. Do not mandate minimum sentencing. Each crime should be looked at independently, and appropriate sentencing be done based on the severity and intention of the crime.

Some additional reasons for my opposition

- We must uphold the current mandatory minimum sentences to ensure that criminals are held accountable for their actions and to protect our communities from dangerous offenders. Any attempt to reduce these sentences could put innocent people at risk.
- Senate Bill 320 would allow criminals who have not previously been sentenced under Ballot Measure 11 to be eligible for sentence reductions, including those convicted of serious offenses such as assault and rape. This undermines the severity of these crimes and sends the wrong message to victims and their families.
- The provision allowing for sentence reduction for "appropriate institutional behavior" and "participation in certain programming" is vague and could be interpreted in a way that rewards criminals for simply following basic rules and guidelines, rather than truly reforming and changing their behavior.
- This bill would create additional administrative burdens and costs for our criminal justice system, including the need to review and approve sentence reductions for eligible offenders. Taxpayers should not have to bear the cost of potentially releasing dangerous criminals back into society.
- The provision allowing for sentence reductions requires approval by a two-thirds majority, which could lead to inconsistent and arbitrary decision-making. We should not be relying on a supermajority vote to determine who is eligible for sentence reductions and who is not. Instead, we should be trusting our judges to make these decisions based on the facts of each case.