

Good day everyone,

My name is Mitch Webb, I am an Oregon exoneree, not yet restored. I am the administrator of a social media group, of more than several Oregon exonerees. All have served time at the same correctional institution and we are all familiar with each other.

I recently led the group into conversation about Senate Bill 1007 and we would like to give some of our insight into the newest provisions, and the effort to speed the process of innocent citizens getting compensation for their wrongful conviction in Oregon. I was released in 2018 after serving 100 months. My life has been on hold since release, as I concentrate on a legal remedy to regain my previous life.

We are encouraged that action has been taken to streamline this seemingly endless process. And those new provisions that will help us reintegrate back into our regular lives if at all possible.

I for one will be using the 4 years of college to obtain a fisheries management degree. Others have expressed interest, but all of us still have reservations about institutional settings. One remedy for this would be an annual free fishing license from ODFW. Purchasing a fishing license and tag is indeed a large stumbling block to using fishing and the Oregon outdoors as a therapy tool. A yearly pass from Oregon State Parks for Day Use and for Oregon State Park campgrounds would also be therapeutic. We were banned from using many of these areas. And this provision would facilitate ease of return to use.

We deserve court appointed counsel or the right to Pro Se directly with the fact finder. Giving a large portion of our compensation to an attorney on contingency would be very unfair. Although legal fees may be returned to us, affording an attorney on retainer is not something many of us can do. Although this is a civil matter, court appointed counsel was given for the PCR stage, and defense for retrial.

Will the fact finder determine our financial education and experience in deciding on a lump sum vs. annuity purchase?. None of us would choose the annuity for ourselves.

We would like to see a new provision for time spent in solitary confinement or "The Hole" due to no fault of our own. This can often happen due to protective custody, work crew investigations, conflicts with other inmates, while awaiting a hearing date.

A finding that the state fabricated evidence to bring about a wrongful conviction or cause a secret grand jury decision should be addressed and compensated for. When we had a perfectly clean legal record, and that was grossly misrepresented by the state, our real identities were stolen from us.

If we were arrested for the charges, which lead to wrongful conviction, while living in another state that was our residence, we need compensation to return to our home state, with our household belongings.

If we were unable to obtain bail before or after trial, we should be compensated for loss of our household goods, tools of trade, vehicles and boats lost.

We all support SB 1007 with the considerations of the above provisions.

Thank you,

Mitch Webb  
Administrator of Freedom for Oregon Exonerees group