

Submitter:

Steven Murphy

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1114

My name is Steven Murphy and I am a Resident at OSH's SRTF unit. I am under the PSRB and have been for the past 11 years. Since I have been in the hospital I have gotten my BS in Psychology and a Graduate certificate in Addictions Counseling. Also I have been working on the education part of my CADC certificate. I aspire to become a CADC certified Addiction counselor. I also have made some mistakes in my past as an addict and transient who lived on the streets of Portland I hung around the wrong group of people. I committed a crime not due to my mental illness, rather I did so because I was homeless, hungry and thought I would get away with my behavior so I stole some food from Safeway and when confronted for my behavior I tried to get away with it. When I seen that I wouldn't get away for my behavior I reverted criminal behavior and threatened the security guard with a knife. I was charged with Robbery 1. To my belief and my experience I was symptomatic at the time of the crime. I had been dealing with meth-induced psychosis so when it came to defending myself I had not been competent enough to defend myself. It is my belief that I prematurely plead guilty except for insanity instead of taking the 24 months that I was offered. Since I was symptomatic at the time of the crime the honorable Judge Skye made judgement that I qualified for the GEI plea. So, here I am today with 7 more years to go before I am released from the jurisdiction of the PSRB. I am responsible for my own behaviors, thoughts and emotions therefore I can respect that I committed a crime and deserved to do time incarcerated. That would have been 24-90 months had I went to prison but turned into 18 years+ some months. My family and everyone I love lives in Michigan and or elsewhere but I have no one here in Oregon which makes it difficult for me. The PSRB will not allow me to move to Michigan until my time is up in 7+ years. I have worked hard on patching a new life for myself, but the PSRB is holding me back from actually living the life I want to live with my family and away from crime. If I had a chance to be done with the PSRB I would move to Michigan with my family and loved ones. I believe that 18 + years is a lot. When the PSRB was designed it was designed to be like the Oregon's Parole board back in 1978. Since then the board has changed and so has the sentencing guidelines. I believe that since those things have changed so should the sentencing guidelines for the PSRB/GEI commits.