

Submitter: Jon Doe
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1114
To Whom This May Concern,

I will start by saying that the PSRB as it exists today works some of us, but the ones who suffer the most are the people who made mistakes and now have a commitment of 10 or 20 years. Only for the very worst crimes in our society do we put people under the thumb of the law like this. I will also mention that only one other state operates in this fashion and even though it's said to us at every step of the process that the PSRB isn't punitive, it sure doesn't feel that way. Mental illness isn't something that can ever be fully cured, it can only be managed, and the person afflicted can only do their best everyday. The individuals under the PSRB have taken the hand that was dealt to them and instead of losing hope in themselves, they choose to continue fighting for themselves and their families, choose hope instead of hate or resentment and have become stronger, more resilient people because of it. This bill gives them an opportunity to return to a normal life. A chance to return to their families, without having to look behind them. With the knowledge that they go about their lives knowing that the guillotine no longer looms so close, that what they worked so hard to build, won't be swept away in the time it takes to write your name down on a piece of paper. I plea for you to consider supporting this reform not for me but for the people who have made something out of nothing and just want peace of mind that their families will stay together.

I will also take time to point out that on one of the opposing the bill side they mentioned that there aren't arbitrary sentencing guidelines, which is either an ignorant statement or just flat-out misrepresenting what the PSRB is currently doing. This person is only thinking from a prosecutor's perspective, and most likely from a self involved political play to keep an already vulnerable population down. This restructuring will not take away from the importance of mental health treatment or the need for medical intervention and the importance of psychiatric medicine and expert psychiatric evaluations.