

**Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,**

Thank you for having me today.

My name is **Dale Moffett**, and I'm here as a **concerned citizen, veteran, a student**, and someone who was **formerly incarcerated**.

I know my time is limited, so I'll get right to it.

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In **2005**, I was incarcerated and sent to prison out in **Pendleton, Oregon**. When I got there, I arrived carrying a lot of **toxic masculinity** — thinking I needed to be a tough guy to survive.

That mindset led to fights, and one of them landed me in **segregation — 180 days in the hole**. While I was in there, I got a letter from my daughter. She told me she was done talking to me because I couldn't even stay out of jail **while I was in jail**.

That letter broke something in me.  
But it also woke something up.

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I knew I needed a different path — a **positive** path.  
So I started taking courses through **Blue Mountain Community College** while incarcerated.

Later, after returning to the Willamette Valley and working for the Secretary of State, I got involved with **College Inside**, a program run through **Chemeketa Community College**. I was able to earn **two associate degrees** — and I served as a **tutor**, helping other men get their **GEDs** and **associate degrees** too.

That program changed the course of my life.

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Today, I'm proud to be enrolled in **Oregon's first-ever bachelor's program at a community college**, right at **Chemeketa**.

I'm finally finishing a dream I promised my mom years ago — and more importantly, I've become someone my **children and grandchildren can be proud of again**.

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And this isn't just a personal story — it's proof that **education works**.

Studies show that education improves a person's chance of being successful after incarceration. While Oregon's overall **recidivism rate** is about **21%**, the rate for men in **College Inside** is **less than 10%**.

That's not just a number — that's **transformation**.  
That's **prevention**, and **hope**, and **real change**.

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**Chemeketa gave me a second chance.**

They opened their doors, supported me, and treated me like family.

There are thousands more people like me — ready for that same opportunity.

That's why I'm asking you today:

**Please vote YES on SB 5525 to support the \$920 million to fund our community colleges.**

For second chances. For education. For people like me. For a future we all deserve.

**Thank you.**