

May 19, 2017

House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Olson and Williamson, and Members of the Committee

I am writing today in support of SB 690A, Certificates of Good Standing. It is my understanding the SB 690A creates an inexpensive, highly vetted, and coveted document to assist formerly incarcerated individuals who have demonstrated exceptional rehabilitation by issuing them an empirical document validating their good behavior.

I teach at Portland State University and have taught many courses over the years in several of our State's prisons. In this role I have had the occasion to have work closely with many men and women who are participating in as many activities that are available to them inside prison. These are programs that are helping them become the best people they can be. Many of my former students understand the challenges they will face upon release and are using their time in prison to develop the resiliency skills and attitudes they will need to face those challenges and be productive citizens once they are back in the community. Although I am sure this certification will not remove the challenges of employment and housing that the formerly incarcerated face, it will provide them with a level of documentation that they used their incarceration as a means to grow and become better people. I also know that whenever we can give incarcerated people incentives for positive, productive behavior programs and individuals are well served. This certification would offer an incentive that many inmates will find meaningful.

In closing, I really want to encourage you to support this Bill. Our communities will be better for it. Knowing a Certificate of Good Standing has been issued based on a comprehensive review of an individual's life from the highest, most relevant authorities in our state, is in everyone's best interest and provides valuable encouragement to formerly incarcerated people in our state.

I urge you to support SB 690A

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy M. Spring". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Amy Spring
Portland, OR