

I am writing in support of SB's 966, 968 & 1008 and ask that you vote in support of: giving youth who have demonstrated growth and accountability during their time at a youth correctional facility the opportunity for a conditional release hearing if they meet the criteria, ending life w/o the possibility of parole for offenders convicted for crimes committed prior to turning 18 and allowing second look hearings for youth convicted and sentenced for offenses committed prior to age 18. This would place responsibility on the youth offender to demonstrate their work during their period of incarceration and would give young adults who have made positive changes the opportunity to rejoin society instead of entering prison/remaining there for periods of time often as long as they have been alive. The juvenile justice system was created due to the understanding and belief that adolescents and children are fundamentally different than adults. This is showing to be more and more true as we come to understand the development of the human brain and I hope that the Oregon Legislature will be willing to take some difficult steps to undo some of the choices made due to inaccurate information from the 1980's and return all but the most serious behaviors to the juvenile justice system.

Sincerely,

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