

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I'm writing today in strong SUPPORT of SB 571, which will allow people convicted of a felony to register to vote, update voter registration, and vote in elections while incarcerated. It has been well documented that our criminal justice system disproportionately impacts Black and Indigenous people in Oregon and across this country. Removing voting rights is an affront to the civil liberties of those being incarcerated. SB 571 would be a historic step towards ending DECADES of disenfranchisement of incarcerated Oregonians which disproportionately silences the voices of Black and Indigenous people.

95% percent of people in prison return to their communities and while reentry can be a difficult process, having strong ties to the community increases the chances of success. Civic engagement, specifically voting, increases the ability for reintegration, reducing recidivism, and making communities safer.

I strongly urge you to support SB 571

Thank you.