

Hello,

I am writing to testify in support for HB 2366, as I strongly believe that it is important to restore and ensure people who are incarcerated gets to exercise their right to vote. I also believe we either need to put processes or refine processes in which people who are incarcerated can register, vote or update voter registration. People who are incarcerated are still members of our society and may have family and friends who will be directly impacted by policy decisions made by our city. In addition, some incarcerated people will be released and return back to society. They should have opportunities to engage in civic engagement to decrease risks of recidivism and to maintain contact with the outside world.

Mass incarceration is a racially motivation system. When society takes those away from their communities, mainly Blacks and Latinos, they are forced into prison labor and further ostracized from society. By taking away their right to vote, society continues to see these people as less than and communicates that they no longer members of society. While some have caused heinous crimes, by restoring voting rights, it is part of rehabilitation for incarcerated people by engaging them in civic duties.

Thank you.

-Resident from Portland, OR