

Dear Senate Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I write this to implore you to vote yes on SB 191. My son's father was convicted of a measure 11 crime six years ago. He is a first time offender and has worked hard to make changes in his life. We miss him everyday.

As an educator, trauma informed instruction is at the heart of my teaching, and I know that children who have an incarcerated parent are at a high risk for trauma and all of the disadvantages and struggles that come with that. As a parent, I experience this reality everyday, in the tears my son cries when he misses his daddy, in the frustration and disappointment when he is excited to mail a drawing he has worked hard on but cannot send it because he forgot he couldn't use crayon, in the exorbitant cost of phone calls and visits, and in the day to day struggle of trying to make it on a single income. I have met many families who share our struggle and pain. And I work with many students who also share this pain.

Many first time offenders currently incarcerated under Measure 11 would benefit greatly from a chance to earn good time. This would incentivize them to work towards becoming productive members of society.

My partner is kind and loving. I assure you he is no threat to society. He will have full time employment when he is released and plans to attend school to study agricultural science. Our goal is to start a family farm that provides healthy food to low income people as well as educational opportunities to our community.

Please consider my family, and the thousands more like mine when you cast your vote. Thank you.

With Respect and Gratitude,

Emily Garaventa