



February 4, 2021

The Honorable Janelle Bynum, Chair  
The Honorable Ron Noble, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Karin Power, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

**Re: Support for HB 2912 – Reauthorizing Re\*Membering**

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

As the founder of Salt & Straw Ice Cream, I would like to offer my company and personal support of the passage of House Bill 2912 (Rep. Sanchez). HB 2912 improves the health and safety of Oregon communities by reauthorizing funding for Re\*Membering, which provides reentry-focused civil legal services to women during incarceration and reduces barriers to a successful return to the community.

As a community, we are only as strong as the weakest among us. We must lift these women up because they are themselves worthy of investing and because it will be in the best interest of all. Most do not have the resources to make meaningful investments in altering their life's course and preventing cycling through the criminal justice system again. As we all know, there is a financial cost and wide-spread negative impacts to broader communities.

One critical factor to laying a foundation for their success is to provide access to resources to deal with civil legal issues that are underlying their incarceration to begin with and exacerbated due to the time they've served. These range from laws and policies that prevent full participation in society, to matters of parental rights, debt, housing and employment, suspended/revoked driver licenses, property and other basic human needs. Re\*Membering allows us to make a modest investment now in civil legal assistance during incarceration, enabling Oregon to save taxpayer dollars and improve the health and safety of our families and communities.

There is a real need for these services. In the first three months, Re\*Membering received over 200 requests for services and the results speak for themselves already. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has positively impacted communities statewide:

- Serving nearly 60 women, more than 55% identifying as BIPOC, addressing 1 to 6 different legal matters each; and
- Serving women releasing to 20 different counties with 75% releasing outside the metropolitan tri-county (Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas) area.

Salt & Straw urges you to vote yes on HB 2912.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Malek".

Kimberly Malek