

Measure 11/ Senate Bill 191

I vote “Yea” for the approval of Senate Bill 191 to pass w/retroactive incentive. As a registered voter and an advocate of human rights, I believe that the current law that is set into place is very archaic and is passed it’s prime. I am 39 years old 13-year Air Force Veteran. I have no personal stake into this bill, but I have been well versed into the justice system and how completely unfair sentencing to AIC are conducted bounding Judges to suggest their own professional recommendations but instead go by a black and white policy. Give the power back to the judges with suggested sentencing guidelines.

Adolescents are not mature adults; two trends are worth noting. First, judgment is affected not only by cognitive abilities but by social and emotional capacities as well. (Journal of Medicine and Philosophy 2013) So what does this mean? The capacities for reasoning and understanding improved significantly from late childhood into adolescence, and by mid-adolescence most teens are close to adults in their ability to reason and process information. The reality is however that adolescents are likely less capable than adults in using these capacities in making real-world choices, partly because of lack of experience and partly because teens are less efficient than adults in processing information. Immaturity is likely affecting their decision about involvement in a crime in ways that distinguish them from adults. There are well documented papers stating that minors are more responsive to peer influence than are adults. Several studies show that susceptibility to peer influence especially in situation involving pressure to commit a crime peaks around age of 14 and slowly declines during the late adolescents’ years. (Scott, 2008). Which means their immaturity and psychological make up to transition to adulthood is not fully developed. So why do we have a prison sentence system set in place for non-conclusive

data? Before you sentence someone to death you have to be absolute that they committed the crime if they have mental disability's fault lies less with them. We have scientific papers that are published stating that minors are not fully developed to fully understand the crimes they commit yet why aren't we listening to them? Now, I am not saying minors are blame less but I am saying that they do not deserve the full capital punishment for there crimes. I like you to think back when you were perhaps 14,15, or 16 years old. Did you do something, illegal or immoral that you never got caught for? Now imagine if you did and got sentence to the full extent of the crime (stealing gum from the store) you look back on it and say "Man I was a bad kid" are you still that same person now in your late 30s+? of course not. We were not fully development human beings yet.

If, I may quote a passage from the best movie of all time "Shawshank redemption" a stupid kid that committed that terrible crime, the old man is all that's left." Minors that are serving a crime committed a decade ago are not that person anymore. From the research I have done from scholarly papers and forming my own opinion. This law must pass. The research is there and only an ill-informed uneducated public would vote against this. I want to thank you for your time, and I do believe we the people would make the right choice to amend a law that was made pre-internet era. With the vast knowledge we now have we can make the right choice. Just look at all the letters received by family members reaching out to the representatives to make the change. This is a huge game changer; people are afraid of change history has shown us this. Making the tuff choices that you believe in even when the people think it's wrong is what makes you a leader. Show us the direction this state is going. Thank you again,

Christian Paley/U.S Air Force Veteran

References

Works Cited

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