

My name is Barb Gazeley. I'm 65 and grew up in Oregon. I graduated from Beaverton High School, Linfield College and Willamette law school. I earned a Masters in Counseling from Lewis & Clark. I've been an Oregon lawyer and mediator for nearly 40 years. I live with my partner Tim Evans, an architect, in Portland. Tim has two adult daughters and I have two adult sons.

My younger son Patrick is at EOCI, serving a 15 year sentence as a first time offender, including 10 years of "Measure 11 time" that cannot be reduced in consideration of good conduct in prison. Patrick was arrested on December 15, 2015 for several armed robberies and an attempted burglary which he committed in Multnomah and Washington counties, all in one 90-minute period, with a hunting gun taken from his girlfriend's father's closet. No one was physically injured, though I'm sure Patrick's victims were very frightened and we greatly regret to this day what he did. At the time, Patrick was in end-stage heroin addiction and owed a large sum of money to a drug dealer who threatened him, saying "I know where you live and I will hurt your family." Patrick's addiction started a couple years earlier with an OxyContin prescription written by a doctor, following an injury in the gym at college.

After Patrick went to prison at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, he graduated from Portland State University with a BS in Liberal Studies, with the support and assistance of his professor, Dr. Richard White. At EOCI, Patrick has worked in the gym, trained service dogs, helped start the beekeeping program and raised vegetables. He plays soccer and has coached his team. He teaches classes in beekeeping and sustainable gardening, through Oregon State and Washington State universities. Patrick has led meditations for prisoners in solitary confinement, and is the Staff Writer for the prison newsletter, the EOCI Echo.

I myself have been the victim of two violent crimes. In 1977 when I was 21 and in law school in Salem, a man broke into my apartment in the middle of the night and raped me. A few years later, when I was working at my first job as a lawyer for the FAA in Washington DC, my boss and I were robbed at gunpoint by four young men who put a gun to my boss's head. So I speak from the perspective of having been a crime victim as well.

It's time for Oregon to reform Measure 11, for the following reasons:

Measure 11 sentences are harsh and arbitrary. Many Oregon prisoners serving Measure 11 sentences had no prior criminal history. Many were immature at the time of their crimes, including some whose development is delayed by addiction;

some suffer from mental illness. Many Measure 11 offenders who serve their time with good conduct still must remain in prison for a decade or longer.

Measure 11's long sentences punish families, who suffer grief and loss and the pain of separation. In particular, the children of incarcerated parents suffer loss of love and role-modeling and financial support. This may have a multi-generational negative impact on Oregonians.

Measure 11's expensive, long sentences also punish Oregon taxpayers. Now, as we face historic future budget imbalances, it's time for us to choose more wisely how best to spend taxpayer dollars.

If our purpose is to encourage those who commit violent crimes to become productive citizens, we should replace Measure 11 with sentences that provide hope and tools, including addiction recovery, education, job training, and care for mental illness. Prisoners should earn time off their sentences with good conduct.

Restoring judicial discretion will allow judges to create sentences that are tailored to each case. Judges still will be able to impose long sentences in appropriate cases.

Long sentences are debilitating. They cause prisoners to lose skills and basic human qualities such as the ability to trust others. Many lose contact with friends and family, and the loss of these relationships makes it even harder to get jobs and rejoin the community upon release.

As a crime victim, I never wanted to punish offenders with arbitrary long sentences. Many victims may find greater security in shorter sentences that provide the keys to recovery for each individual convicted of a crime, because such sentences will increase the likelihood that former offenders will become productive members of our community.

Reforming Measure 11 is the right thing to do. As Oregonians, we should aspire to higher values than just retribution and punishment. The 2021 Measure 11 reform bills will benefit all Oregonians. They deserve our support. Thank you.



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