

To whom this concerns,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I am a girlfriend to an inmate at EOCI. Everyday we talk about our present goals and our future goals especially when he gets out. My boyfriend was a first time offender and got sentenced to 12 years at the age of 19. He is now 23 and he has done so much while being incarcerated. He's gotten his ged, works in there, and has stayed out of trouble the past 3 years. He has accepted that what he did was wrong and doesn't want to return when he leaves. He has a job waiting for him when he gets out. He has never held his daughter who wasn't even born yet when he was booked. His daughter misses her daddy and he's missing so much in some of the most important years of her life. Every girl needs her father. We live in a pandemic at the moment, Can you imagine that most of the inmate's families have be quarantined from their loved ones for years?! As a society, we can do better and be better by giving those who are incarcerated a chance to get good time served and return to their loved ones.

I am asking that you vote yes to reforming the bill and giving these men and women a chance to do better and be better when they return to a different world they left from. Every moment of your life is a second chance!!! We all have done things that we wish we could take back and wish we did things differently but man does life give us chances after chances to change our ways and evolve into a stronger person!!!

My boyfriend once wrote to me, "A rose without its thorns is just another flower, and a life lived without struggle is ultimately forgettable. Without pain is joy still joy? Without tears does laughter still sound like music?? It wasn't until I lost everything that I truly started to appreciate what was left. Many of my moments are spent thinking of everything I once took for granted. Now it's gone. I've learned the hard way that once a bridge is burned you can't re-cross it. Yet I've also learned that with time, you can pick up the pieces and rebuild. I am at a place in my life where I am ok with remembering my past, but I am no longer ok with repeating it or living in it. I don't want my mistakes to define me. I am cherishing the fact that my future will be what I make it."

The Measure 11 bill was established in a different time and is almost 20 years old. It gives no opportunity for reduced sentences, no good time, and leaves people with no rewards for doing good while incarcerated. PLEASE GIVE THEM HOPE AND VOTE YES!!! Along with many other families with those who are incarcerated, we really would like to bring our loved ones home and give them another chance at life and give them opportunities they deserve! No one is perfect and we all have our flaws. Don't let this be another one and give these inmates a chance to correct theirs!!

Sincerely,
Kimberly Filbert