

3/21/21, SUNDAY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND BALLOT MEASURE-11 IMPLEMENTATION,

WOW, THAT TITLE'S SO LONG IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE A PARAGRAPH INTO ITSELF.

ANYHOW, PLEASE ALLOW ME A MOMENT OR FEW TO INTRODUCE MYSELF AND ADDRESS THE ISSUE AS IT PERTAINS TO ME REACHING OUTSIDE OF THE RAZOR WIRE HOTEL TO YOU ESTEEMED ELECTED OFFICIALS.

MY NAME IS JOHN MFKNIGHT WADE, PRISONER #10987304, AND I AM A CURRENT LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF YOUR UNIQUE AND UNUSUALLY SURREAL PRISON SYSTEM. PLEASE DON'T GET THE IMPRESSION THAT I'M GOING TO GO INTO SOME "KOR ME, NOBODY KNOWS THE TROUBLE I'VE SEEN." I EARNED MY WAY HERE, AND AM STANDING UP AS AN ADULT TAKING UP THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CULPABLE BEHAVIORS AND ALL OF THE CONSEQUENCES THAT ENSE AS A NATURAL SOCIAL REACTION TO THEM. THIS PERTAINS TO THE COLLECTIVE IMPACT THAT MEASURE-11 HAD ON YOUR CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM AND THE OBJECTIVE THAT IT RESPONSES TO ACHIEVE, AND THEREFORE AS A FAILURE, THE ~~THE~~ DIRECT EFFECT THAT IT'S HAD ON THE OREGON SOCIAL MODEL AS A WHOLE. THIS IS COMING FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF SOMEONE WHO HAS WITNESSED THE IMPACT OF MEASURE-11 ON THE PSYCHS OF THOSE WHO'VE BEEN SUBJECTED TO IT, MYSELF INCLUDED, SO I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ALL CONSIDER MY COGENT PERSPECTIVE AND SERIOUSLY TAKE IT INTO ACCOUNT. THE VIEWPOINT FROM THIS END IS PRAGMATIC TO A FAULT.

I'VE WITNESSED FIRSTHAND AND AS A GROUND-ZERO GRASSROOTS PARTICIPANT AND OBSERVER OF THE FAILURE OF THE COLLECTIVE NEGATIVE IMPACT THAT MEASURE-11 HAS HAD, FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE EFFECT IT'S HAD ON THE MINDS OF EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THE PRISON SYSTEM. I WAS SENT TO U.S.C.I. IN MAY OF 1996, WHEN THAT PLACE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE OREGON'S "GLADIATOR SCHOOL," A TOUGH PLACE FOR THE YOUNGER CRIMINALS TO EARN THEIR REPARATIONS AND WITH THEIR SKILLS THE NEARLY AND DISPROPORTIONAL

MAJORITY OF THE PRISON POPULATION THERE WAS OF AN AVERAGE AGE OF MAYBE 25 YEARS OLD, ALMOST ALL OF WHOM WERE SERVING MEASURE-11 SENTENCES AND FELT THAT THEY HAD SOMETHING TO PROVE. IMMEDIATELY THE MINDSET WAS BIRTHED IN THE ENTIRE PRISON SYSTEM, THE BELIEF THAT NO MATTER HOW GOOD OR BAD WE WERE WE'LL STILL GET OUT ON THE SAME DATE, SO WHY NOT "WILD OUT", AS WE CALL IT IN HERE. THIS NEW AND EXTREME FORM OF NIHILIST THINKING PATTERNS WAS AND IS SO INSIDIOUS IT'S AFFECT THE SUBSEQUENT YOUNGER GENERATIONS. SINCE IT FIRST BECAME A LAW, IT ENDED UP BECOMING A CRIMINAL BADGE OF ACHIEVEMENT, TO HAVE A MEASURE-11 SENTENCE, AND SHORTLY ENOUGH TO HAVE PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED A SENTENCE UNDER BALLOT MEASURE-11, THIS ALSO UNFORTUNATELY COINCIDED WITH A WAVE OF CALIFORNIA GANG MEMBERS EMIGRATING FROM THE GOLDEN STATE TO POINTS ELSEWHERE, A LOT LANDING IN OREGON. I MYSELF WAS PART OF THIS WAVE OF CRIMINALITY, SO I CAN WITNESS AS A PARTICIPANT THE INFLUENCE THAT THE CALIFORNIA GANG MEMBERS HAD ON OREGON'S YOUTH, PARTICULARLY IN PORTLAND. BETWEEN MEASURE-11 AND THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF CALIFORNIA GANG CULTURE ON OREGON'S YOUTH, IT SUDDENLY BECAME 'COOL' FOR YOUNGSTERS TO HAVE A MEASURE-11 CONVICTION, THEREFORE RAMPING UP THE STATISTICS OF VIOLENT AND MORE ORGANIZED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN OREGON AS A WHOLE. FROM THAT NIHILISTIC POINT FORWARD, THE RISE OF OREGON'S OWN GANG CULTURE TOOK ROOT, AND THEREFORE BECAME A MUSHROOM CLOUD OF FREE-RANGE DANGER AND VIOLENCE WITHIN THE STATE PRISONS, THE FEDERAL PRISONS, AS WELL AS OUT IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS OUT THERE IN THE FREE WORLD. OREGON'S BECAME MORE DANGEROUS BECAUSE OF MEASURE 11, NOT IN SPITE OF IT.

THERE'S NO DELUSION THAT THE RISE OF OREGON'S PRISON GANG CULTURE WAS BORN AT THIS TIME. A BRAND NEW FORM OF ORGANIZED CRIME WAS NOW TAKING PLACE AT THIS TIME. RIOTS STARTED TO BECOME THE NEW FAD AS A LOT OF YOUNGSTERS JOINED THE NEGATIVE PARADIGM SHIFT, CREATING A ZEPHEIR AMONGST THE PRISON POPULATION AROUND MEASURE-11, AS WELL AS OUT THERE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS. WITHIN THE MINDS OF ALL OF US IN HERE, MEASURE-11

TOOK AWAY ALL CONSEQUENCE OF BEHAVIOR, SO EVERYBODY WHO CAME IN HERE BECAME WORSE AND WENT OUT THERE INTO YOUR STREETS, NOT CARING ABOUT ANYTHING AND STRIVING TO INCREASE THEIR VIOLENCE-LEVELS IN YOUR FREE-WORLD. WITH NO REASON OR INCENTIVE TO BECOME BETTER CITIZENS AND EARN OUR FREEDOM, OREGON AS A WHOLE IS SUFFERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF THIS FAILED BILL AND ITS ORIGINAL IMPLEMENTATION, AND IS ULTIMATELY A MAJOR BURDEN ON THE STATE BUDGET, AS WELL AS THE OREGON TAXPAYERS. PERUSE THE STATISTICS AND UNDOUBTEDLY THIS WILL EASILY BE CONFIRMED, THE COST IS OVERWHELMING ~~THE~~ STATE'S TAX BUDGET.

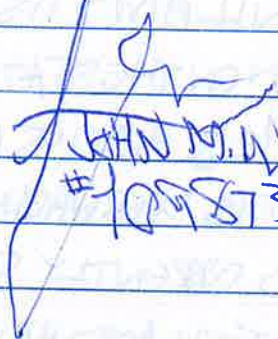
SHOULD THOSE OF US CURRENTLY SERVING MEASURE-11 SENTENCES BE ALLOWED TO EARN OUR GOOD TIME AND HAVE IT APPLIED RETROACTIVELY, THE CRIMINAL PARADIGM WOULD COLLECTIVELY SHIFT TOWARD EFFORTS OF A CHANGED MINDSET, FROM NIHILISM TO RESPONSIBILITY. WITH THOSE OF US WHO'RE ABLE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR FREEDOM, THE COLLECTIVE PERSPECTIVE OF US IN HERE, GANG MEMBERS INCLUDED, WOULD SHIFT IN RAPID FASHION, THE STATISTICS WOULD REFLECT THAT, AND THEREFORE THE WISDOM OF ALLOWING US TO EARN THE INCENTIVE OF GOOD TIME ON OUR SENTENCES WOULD END UP WITH THE VAST MAJORITY OF MEASURE-11 SENTENCED OFFENDERS BEING REHABILITATED, RATHER THAN SPIKING THE RECIDIVATION RATES, AND FURTHER BURDENING THE STATES TAX PAYING CITIZENS WITH A FAILED POLICY. AS ONE WHO IS DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY, NOT ONLY WOULD IT CHANGE MY WAYS BUT I COULD BE ABLE TO WITNESS THE CORRECTIONAL MODEL BEING EFFECTIVE, AS WELL AS THE SUBSEQUENT POSITIVE CHANGES IN THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM, TO MAKE THIS RETROACTIVE WOULD ONLY INCREASE THE POSITIVE CHANGES THAT'S RIPPLE FROM THESE PRISONERS TO OREGON SOCIETY AT LARGE, AND MAKE OREGON A MUCH SAFER PLACE WITH A MUCH ~~BETTER~~ IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AS WELL AS LONG TERM BENEFITS.

ANYHOW, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME IN CONSIDERING MY VIEWPOINT, I'M

SO SORRY ABOUT MY HANDWRITING. I'M PARTIALLY PARALYZED FROM A BAD SURGERY SO

I'M LEARNING HOW TO WRITE LEFT-HANDED! HOPE THAT YOU CAN MAYBE UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS OF THIS SB 191 BILL BEING APPLIED TO ALL DC US RETROACTIVELY, AND REMAIN, RESPECTFULLY...

YOURS,



JOHN M. WADE
#10987304