

I support the passage of Senate Bill 191.

I have seen the destructive nature of Measure 11 that has put away people for 25 years because of this measure. Judges have no discretion when reviewing individual cases. Granted there are cases where the 25 years is a just sentence, but the judges are not allowed to do their job reviewing individual cases. The result is the incarceration of individuals for 25 years who in all reality do not deserve that kind of sentence.

Passage of Senate Bill 191 would give hope and a sense of purpose for adults in custody under a Measure 11 conviction to earn a reduction to their sentence. Otherwise why even try to improve knowing that one is stuck with a 25 year sentence. A sentence that is longer than what many criminals of more horrific crime receive.

I also believe that Measure 11 has increased the number of those incarcerated at a great expense to the State of Oregon. I have found that the average cost of keeping an inmate in custody to be around \$43,000 per year per inmate. Not only does SB191 give hope and purpose to those who have been sentenced to long terms...but also would be a cost savings to the State of Oregon by releasing those who have earned that right. Then not only a cost savings, but as they integrate back into society with jobs, they pay taxes back to the state for wages earned and increase the earnings of the companies that they work for who also pay taxes on those profits. It ends up being a win/win for both the incarcerated individual and the State of Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of Senate Bill 191!