

March 31, 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary and
Ballot Measure 110
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon

RE: SB 191 Written Public Comment in FAVOR

Dear Chairperson Prozanski and Senate Committee Members:

In 1994, I voted for Measure 11 (M-11). I was tired of those in our society not appreciating what is theirs and what is NOT theirs. What is right and what is WRONG. I was tired of people in my/our "community" hurting others, stealing from others, killing others, raping of children. Go live with criminals in prison. Just get off our streets. Pay for it you hoodlum! Especially those who commit crimes over and over and over. But did I mean for a first-time offender, be removed from society for 7, 10, 15 or even 25 years? Did I mean no chance of any rehabilitation? Did I mean for no chance of sentence reduction? I'm not so sure now, here in 2021.

SB 191 is before the Senate for consideration. SB 191 will allow those currently incarcerated under M-11, an opportunity to seek possible early release due to good behavior. It is an opportunity, not a guarantee of release.

I am not a victim.

I am not a Mother, wife, daughter, sister to anyone in the prison system.

However, I am a neighbor who is helping raise the village. I am the neighborhood Mom to 2 neighborhood boys who DECIDED to be a hoodlum in their younger years. Even though jail was enough for one of them, the other was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Guilty by association. He was 19. He is now 34. He had no gun. He tied no one. He threatens no one. Yet he is serving M-11 sentences back-to-back, totaling 23 years and 10 months. His release in March 2032 and he will be 42. My husband and I told both boys, you go to prison, see ya when you get released. In 2017, I changed my mind and began visiting and communicating with him. Mind you he went to prison in 2006. I am so glad I found the strength to "visit prison". He has opened up to me about the 2006 incident, about his time while being incarcerated, the death of his mother and one sister while in prison, his desires for his future, his new relationship with Jesus. Passing SB 191 will open that possibility for him. Allowing him to choose to be a better person and contribute to our society. Allowing him to find love and to be loved.

Morale for Inmates

There is no value in doing better as a person while incarcerated when your mindset is to survive in the prison "community" for x amount of year. Note, I did not say prison system. Prison changes people. Both positive and negative. Positive changes happen to those who want it. Those individuals have learned their lesson from being removed from society. The AICs sentenced under Measure 11 now and just having SB 191 before the legislature is a God send. You can expect more inmates choosing good behavior now and not just in the last couple years left in their sentencing.

Safety for all Inmates and Prison Staff

The justice system can set rules and laws. However, if you are NOW convicted of a M-11 crime and NOW have the opportunity to work towards good time served and potential early release, and you are housed with those who do not get that chance ... well, I would not want to be that new AIC (Adult in Custody). As I said, the prison "community" will take care of their own. Just like they do now with child molesters. Will there be possible riots and injuries within the prison "community", it is highly probable.

Closing of Correctional Facilities and Overcrowding

Oregon Governor Brown is seeking to close correctional facilities, looking at 3 of them actually, and passing SB 191 would be assisting in that effort.

Thank you for your time and energy in your consideration of passing SB 191 offering a possible chance/option for ALL (retroactive) M-11 prisoners. Having equality for all prisoners under Measure 11 crimes, not just those after a 27-year review. Please pass SB 191.

Mrs. Kim Resch
Salem, Oregon