

We who have been affected by mandatory minimums without good time have had a lot of time and opportunity taken away from us. Now I know not all of us have taken this time to better ourselves but its due to the fact that once we get that mandatory sentence we have a sense of defeat its hard to keep our morale up in such a negative environment. Without any incentive to do good we fall into the prison mentality and lifestyle. We begin to think its us against them and we find ourselves defying the system. I believe that obtaining good time should be retroactive because it would give us the opportunity to show that we have made a positive change while incarcerated. Allowing it to be retroactive will give people like me who have taken multiple courses to better myself and have made the choice to better myself in this environment the ability to go home early and have the chance to begin building a more positive future. It will give us an incentive to take this time to build ourselves instead of feeling that we don't have a reason to try. I myself have been able to turn my entire life around and chose to participate in all classes available. I have completed my apprenticeship to be a journeyman painter and my perspective on life has grown immensely. I am ready to get out into the world, and to be successful with what this whole experience has taught me. I have learned many important lessons and I feel that passing this bill and making it retroactive will help me feel like defying the odds and going out of my way to make the most of this situation, was not for nothing. It will also allow me the opportunity to move past my old self and reemerge into the world as a smart successful painter and a positive figure in society. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I pray you vote yes on Senate Bill 191.

Sincerely,



Kevin Lee Agenbroad