

March 22, 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Our Testimony for Senate Bill 191

It is important to pass Senate Bill 191 - and make it retroactive - to give inmates something to be gained by working to "correct" themselves in Oregon's correctional facilities.

Everyone likes recognition for doing good. That is the main reason "early release for good behavior" was started in the first place. Federal prisons and most state prisons have a "reward" system¹.

If the Oregon Senate agrees that the 1994 Measure 11 should be changed to "give time off for good behavior", then it should also be changed for those who are already serving their sentences.

Our family member has about ten years yet to serve. He has consciously strived to be on his best behavior. He knows if the law changes now, he will be able to get out earlier as a reward for his efforts.

This will accomplish what it was originally intended to do - to give him hope and incentive. He will know that his good behavior and participating in the training classes/programs may earn him credit toward early release. Our hope is this will lead him to become a productive part of society when he is released.

Please pass SB191 and make it retroactive.

Thank you for your consideration,



Brian and Gail Cates



¹https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/study/2016/1495/030_august_31_2016_meeting_10_00_a_m_room_412_east_state_capitol/memmono4g