

Public Hearing SB191

April 5, 2021

Please consider this testimony of behalf of our son and other AIC's who fulfill the requirements for early release based on SB191. Our son Casey, with a robbery conviction, has served 6 years of his 7 1/2 year sentence. He is in the Electrical Apprenticeship program at Two Rivers in Umatilla, and has fulfilled the mandatory 8000 hours required to take his journeyman's test. He should test for his electrical license within the next month or so. He has a perfect conduct record and has been a mentor to other apprentices both as an encourager and study buddy (he's a very sharp cookie). His electrical supervisor told us, at the annual picnic, that Casey is one of those men he can tell has done a 180, taken advantage of all the DOC has to offer to move forward, and will never be through the doors again once released. He was also involved in AA, Chapel, and Bible studies before Covid-19 Restrictions were put in place. He is part of the Sustainability in Prisons Project as a Beekeeper apprentice. He is in his second year of the program and an official mentor to the new men in the program.

When Casey is released, a job as an electrician will be waiting for him as well as a stable home in which to live. His father, Kevin, is a parts manager for an industrial equipment/supply business in Eugene, Oregon and I am teacher at McKenzie Elementary east of Springfield, Oregon. We have met several men Casey knows in prison, similar to Casey; reformed men, ready to be productive members of society. Please consider a sentencing system that once again offers incentives to reformation and allows sentencing discretion by judges. Please, also, vote for a retroactive bill that will allow the many men and women, like Casey, who have proven themselves ready to get out and move on as productive members of our state, to be released and start earning their own way.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Barbara Carlson

Mother of Casey Carlson SID #21080298, Two Rivers Correctional Minimum

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