

Good morning everyone, I would like to share with you why I **support SB 191** and why it is so important to me personally and many adults in custody and their families.

It was 9 years ago when I walked into a prison for the first time ever. I had no choice, if I wanted to see my only child, my only son I would need to force myself. The fear I felt the anxiety, walking through the many heavy locked doors of the prison, the locked security gates with all the security procedures was overwhelming and frightening to say the least. As I was soon to find out this in no way matched the feelings I had when it was the end of my visit and I had to leave my son at the prison, while I was free to escape. To this day, 9 years later it is still difficult to end each and every visit. The feeling is indescribable A Mother is supposed to be there for her child soothe the child's wounds, reassure them and comfort them making everything alright. To come to the realization that I could not help my son in any way, I could not take him out of that horrible place, I could not relieve his fears, I could not tell him it would be over soon, or that he would be safe, and I cannot promise I will be alive by the time he is released. I have the same horrible dose of reality each time I leave him inside those prison walls and head for my long return home.

I now am trying to put that worry and helplessness that I feel to good use by advocating for those who need it, those that deserve it, and those that are trying to better themselves, while in prison. Not everyone in prison is a bad person; they just made some bad mistakes. I belong to the group "Time does not fit the crime" and as a committee member who has come into contact with several family members of incarcerated loved ones, numerous voters, and adults in custody themselves who all feel that SB191 is long overdue and absolutely needed.

SB191- provides an incentive for those who deserve it, GOOD TIME CREDITS for a reduction in sentence. From Birth on, as small children we all are taught and learn about rewards, incentives, and motivators if you will. We learn to work hard for these incentives, or rewards, we also learn if you do something wrong

there is a consequence, a punishment. Yes when people break the law and commit crimes they do deserve punishment, however not all adults in custody deserve the incredible long and harsh sentences that measure 11 offenders often receive.

SB191 - allows inmates sentenced under measure 11 to have the same equal rights as other inmates, by being afforded the opportunity to utilize their good time credits. Adults in custody who are learning to take responsibility for the decisions they have made, and holding themselves accountable are the inmates that want to change, they want to improve themselves, have made goals for themselves and just want to get on with their lives. My son for an example has been a model inmate since he was incarcerated. He has maintained acceptable behaviors and gotten involved in each and every class or activity he possibly could. He has maintained employment since incarceration. He has managed to maintain excellent behavior, get along with everyone, and be respectful and helpful to those in need. He is what is considered a low risk to reoffend, or to return to prison.

If you can imagine how hard it must be to keep on the straight and narrow, to not be intimidated or pressured to break the rules, or just to remain safe on a day to day basis, inside a prison. But some do achieve these goals and manage to do well and maintain clear conduct. Prison is often very intense, stressful and hostile, so I am told. Many adults in custody find it very hard to have hope, or remain positive, especially if they do not have people to support them or who care about them. They need a reward, or incentive. This is especially true for those Measure 11 offenders who do not have the opportunity for any help or rehabilitation. They are just locked up, just warehoused for long prison sentences. These inmates feel lonely, frustrated, isolated, bitter, hopeless and often depressed. They feel defeated and it is very hard to motivate them once this happens.

But what if these adults in custody have an incentive to do better. What if they are acknowledged for the things they have changed, the absence of behavior outbursts, by demonstrating positive pro social behavior? What if these adults in

custody had the ability to earn a reward for these positive changes? I feel SB191 is that answer. It can provide some sense of hope for inmates, provide a reason to work harder, do better or continue to do well. Let's reward them with time off for good behavior if they deserve it. Some I know will worry about the violent and repeat offenders being released to run the streets again. These are not the offenders we are talking about. Those adults in custody would not meet the criteria to earn the good time credits. Let's help to improve other inmate's chances of doing better. Let's give them a sense of hope. We are asking that all inmates under measure 11 be allowed to use their good time credits towards a sentence reduction and that it be applied to all inmates sentenced under measure 11 retroactively. Since the implementation of Measure 11 several years ago thousands of inmates are currently incarcerated under Measure 11 sentences. All inmates should be treated equally and fairly regardless of sentencing under measure 11 or not. We not asking to change Measure 11, we are asking for an addendum to allow ALL INMATES to be treated equally and fairly. We just want Measure 11 inmates to earn the same rights as other prisoners who aren't under Measure 11.

I ask for your support of **SB191**- A good common sense bill. Let's provide a light at the end of the tunnel for those who deserve it. Oregon it is time!

Thanks for your consideration,

Suzette Lundy