

My name is Barbara Gazeley. I grew up and went to school in Oregon. I graduated from Beaverton High School in 1973, Linfield College in 1975 and Willamette Law School in 1978. I was an active Oregon lawyer for nearly 40 years until I retired from civil law practice in 2017. Since July 2017 I've been a flight attendant, and as such I'm a first responder and a public safety worker.

I believe public safety is important. I also believe in a balance of justice and mercy. Measure 11 removes judicial discretion and puts all power in the hands of district attorneys. It has caused many to serve overly long sentences, damaging their ability to function well in normal life, making them less employable and therefore in some cases less safe in our communities after release. Measure 11 has pulled first time offenders into its dragnet, which was not the intention of many voters who helped pass Measure 11 in 1994. These aspects of Measure 11 have eliminated justice and mercy in Oregon. It's time to restore those values.

I have been a victim of two crimes. In 1977 I was raped by a man who broke into my home when I was sleeping, and in about 1980 with my boss I was robbed at gunpoint by four young men who accosted us on the street. I did not want my offenders to be essentially thrown away, as they are under Measure 11. Rather, I wanted them caught. I wanted our system to figure out what went wrong in their lives and why they took such desperate, unlawful action. I wanted consequences that provided opportunities for these individuals to recover and improve themselves. I did not want their sentences to be so long as to be disabling.

My younger son is serving a 15 year Measure 11 sentence, as a first time offender. During his last year in college, Patrick committed several armed robberies and attempted burglary, with a hunting gun, all in 90 minutes. He was in end-stage opiate addiction that began with an OxyContin prescription from his medical doctor following an injury in the gym. Patrick was being threatened by a drug dealer who said he'd hurt our family if Patrick didn't pay his debt ASAP. Patrick did not cause physical injury to anyone, though his behavior was undoubtedly very frightening to those involved. Patrick, and our entire family, regrets his actions and we all pray his victims have recovered.

Since his arrest on December 15, 2015, Patrick has continuously demonstrated good conduct. He completed college and graduated from Portland State University in 2017. He trained service dogs for over a year. In 2019, Patrick helped



start the new beekeeping program at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, and now he teaches other prisoners beekeeping and sustainable gardening. Patrick plays soccer and works out in the gym, and he has taught meditation to prisoners who are in solitary confinement.

Patrick and I have discussed the proposed Measure 11 reform bills. I asked him why he thinks the law should be changed to permit current prisoners to earn time off their sentences by good conduct. Here is what Patrick says:

Everyone in Oregon's prisons - guards as well as inmates - will be safer if prisoners are allowed to earn time off their sentences by demonstrating good behavior. Most prisoners will be incentivized to behave well, in order to earn time off. Then, they will remember that it is satisfying to do good work and be a good person, and they will create personal habits of prosocial, positive behavior. This will also make the public safer, because prisoners who are released will want to continue to do good so that they will feel good about themselves.

To people who are fearful that earlier releases will endanger the public, Patrick says: The inmates who continue to cause trouble and do not demonstrate good behavior will not earn time off. So, they will not be released early.

Patrick also believes that Oregon would benefit from establishing new programs for education and job training, so that it becomes normal for most inmates to use their incarceration time to better themselves. At this time, there are very few job training slots. Most job training is offered primarily to allow the prisons to run less expensively by using cheap prisoner labor. Instead, we need to expand prison education and job training so that all inmates who want to educate themselves, learn skills and become credentialed for trades can do so while in prison. This will make it easier for prisoners to get jobs once they leave prison, which will also increase public safety. People who have jobs are less likely to re-offend.

By shortening sentences, we can fund job training, education and addiction recovery programs, and greatly improve the results of our prison system. Instead of releasing unrecovered addicts and others who have languished for long years in prison without access to education or job training, we will be able to release recovered individuals with education and skills, who can get jobs, support families and be positive members of their families and communities.

Measure 11 has not turned out as we thought it would. When Measure 11 was enacted, many voters thought it would only apply to repeat offenders. Instead, many first time offenders are serving long mandatory minimum sentences under Measure 11. Many young people have been incarcerated for decades under Measure 11. Young people whose brains are not fully developed often make poor choices, particularly in the context of addiction, poverty, racism and in some cases mental illness. Now, we see how costly and counterproductive it is to simply lock up such people for decades with little in the way of positive incentives or programs for education and job training.

Some district attorneys and victims argue that we should retain Measure 11 in its full rigidity and mercilessness. They cite the most extreme examples to support their argument. The reality is that Measure 11 applies with full force to a wide variety of crimes, circumstances and individual offenders and victims. Measure 11 has cost taxpayers huge amounts of money in exchange for very poor results.

We can and must do better!

It's time to reform our sentencing laws and prison programs to achieve human improvement, rather than continue the debilitating drain caused by long mandatory minimum sentences served in prisons lacking positive programs.

Reforming Measure 11 will make Oregon safer, and restore justice and mercy. Please support SB 191 and the other 2021 Measure 11 reform bills, and continue to push for beneficial changes in our criminal justice and prison systems.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Gatzert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.