

My heart goes out to each person in prison that has been charged as a first time offender, subjected to a DA who pushed to have them sentenced under Measure 11 with an attorney who just encouraged them to take a plea deal. Then, they are stuck in prison for 25 years! That is a good portion of their life, the best years for earning a living, their retirement, getting married and having a family. They will be stuck depending on the government when they get out, in their later years. This is a huge financial burden to Oregon! Besides not allowing them to take classes to improve themselves, to earn a GED or a college education for earned time off, as well as other improvement programs. Men who were working hard and being good citizens, but made a mistake in their past are having to pay with their entire lives! Good men/woman, who by working hard in prison will be good neighbors when they get out of prison. Or they will not get rewarded and not do the Good time possibilities and be bad neighbors when they get out. So many of these men have been working hard, earning a good living and paying taxes, having families; and because someone who realized they made a bad decision years ago, filed charges to hurt the person they made a mistake with. Both sides/people should be looked at closely before any sentencing should be made.

I am missing time with my son, who would be getting married and having children now. I will probably be dead (90 years old) before he gets out. I am heart broken that this has happened. I realize that mistakes were made and need to be paid for, but not 25 years and whole lot of money \$\$\$\$ besides. Please pass this bill and make changes in the prison conditions. Make changes in the lives of the AIC's and their families. Let's change to a restorative justice program not a punitive justice program. Ignoring this situation just makes the AIC's worse people and the prison a worse place to be. Make the change to cut the costs of the prisons and let these men and woman get out early, get jobs and pay taxes like they should be doing. Please review their cases and ease the financial burden of the State of Oregon. Thank you ~