

Senate Bill SB191; Provides that person sentenced to mandatory minimum sentence under Ballot Measure 11 (1994) for crime other than murder is eligible for reduction in sentence for appropriate institutional behavior and participation in certain programming unless otherwise ordered by court for substantial and compelling reasons.

I AM IN SUPPORT OF THIS SENATE BILL SB191, We must revisit the extreme and excessive minimum terms as outlined in Measure 11, in which Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 11 in November 1994 ...**to apply mandatory minimum prison sentences to certain crimes against persons committed on or after April 1, 1995, with no possibility for any reduction in sentence, such as for good behavior.**

Measure 11 also mandates that juveniles age 15 and older, charged with the felonies listed above, be tried as adults.

What we have seen over and over again, is that this Measure 11 bill may have made sense back in 1995, for a few years ...but well into the first decade we had already began seeing a steady and increasingly large Measure 11 offences, and ultimately inmates.

Measure 11 created a class of crimes that in the eyes of voters deserved longer **prison** sentences and ensured people convicted of those offenses served every day of their terms.

Today, offenders prosecuted under the landmark law make up about 47% of the 12,586 people in Oregon's prisons, according to the state. Feb 27, 2021

Consideration for good behavior and the reduction of 5 years reduced for good behavior consistently should be a priority for change for so many reasons. *The financial impact of excessive populated prison, and prison sentences, giving an opportunity to some qualified Measure 11 inmates to salvage the lives of individuals who have on one account, served their country and have made a difference in the lives of others and community. This all before a single crime has punished them for much longer, and in most cases, no opportunity to have an alternative and viable option.*

In comparison, there are more repeat offenders of serious crimes that continually get their second and third chances in a court of law and in society. Creating what we primarily see today in Multnomah County alone.

I work with many people in transition from homelessness, drug addiction and mental health, and prison. There are so many on the street today that should be incarcerated. But because of the ways laws were written, these habitual criminals continue to get second, third, and fourth chances that continually take from our already stressed resources and our sense of a safe community.

Measure 11 has placed through the sentencing guidelines, so many individuals in prison for longer than truly necessary, as I am certain can be witnessed through their individual behavior and willingness to work within the systems and follow the rules.

A special incentive for this good behavior would be the opportunity to have the sentenced time reduced by 5 years. I also feel that anyone on this path would be expected to spend the approaching years preparing themselves through offered education, training, and or trade skills. The hope would be to have such graduates of this amendment be directed to case managers that will direct them to a viable employment opportunity once released and have met all of the transitioning guidelines.

Please consider the validity of the savings of time, money and restoration of the many lives of individuals that can have a significant impact and still make a difference in the lives of his or her community and families.

Thank you for your consideration.

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