

To: Senate Committee

3/31/21

on Judiciary and Ballot
Measure Implementation
900 Court St NE RM#453
Salem, OR 97301

From: Toby Mendenhall, AIC
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SUBJ: Vote on Bill 191

To Sir or Ma'am,

I speak now to you not for me and my sentence, but on behalf of the several inmates I personally know who have been down for decades, with spouses and family who are also in their own prison believing they will never see their loved ones as free men again.

With respect to the laws as they stand, I want you to know and believe that the men I speak of know of their guilt, know of the debt to society, and know the pain the caused to the victims and their families. But what of the suffering of the family members of the convicted? Must they also do years and years of suffering with no relief in sight? That decision is yours.

Allow me to discuss Good Time: An AIC must spend the majority of their time without ever getting into trouble. And I'm not talking about just avoiding conflicts with other inmates; we AIC's are expected to follow pages of tedious rules. We are also expected to navigate the murky waters of individual rules of particular CO's who want things done a certain way. A violation of any of these could mean that we lose our ability to get good time. I think this is the point that I want you to understand: Good time isn't an automatic as it is. I DO think that all M11 AIC's should have the opportunity to get their good time. (You can see this rule in full detail on OAR 291-097-0200 through 0305).

In conclusion, reader, understand that being granted good time doesn't in anyway, take away our post prison supervision time. We are given the chance to prove to society that we are full rehabilitated. Isn't that what the prison system was originally designed for?

Just give us a chance. Give the thousands of guys (and gals), who have been here a chance to be with their loved ones again. Please think of the wives, husbands, brothers, sisters, niece and nephews whom have chosen to keep their AIC loved ones in their lives virtually through all the years. Is it possible to set them free?

Warmly,



Toby Mendenhall, AIC

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