

February 19, 2021

The Honorable Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Prozanski, and the Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation,

Greetings, and good morning, my name is Steven M Brown. I am Deaf, ASL native signer professional licensed counselor. I have known several Deaf and Hard of Hearing state prisoners and they cannot vote because of their felony convictions. All of them have been served, released, and complied with probations as they could, but some of them truly have changed their lives into productive ones, not criminal lifestyles they usually had in the past.

Some of them become educated and graduated from colleges. Some of them got married and have children. Some of them even own houses and have full-time employments. They are turned themselves to be responsible taxpayers, property owners, and productive adults. Yet, they cannot vote because of their felony convictions – especially when they were in state prisons.

On the other hand, I would suspect some of state inmates are already taxpayers and even property owners, but their voting rights have been stripped because of their felony convictions. That should have not happened at all because they “are” still practicing as citizens. Voting rights should be their citizenship rights; not defined by or because of their convictions.

I also understand that felony disfranchisement – especially on voting rights – has a deep root of history within the racial discrimination, segregation, and the domination of the white supremacy. I urge you to put all of that stopped and begin to obliterate such practicing racial systematic institutions, citizenries, and among of others. State inmates with color should have a right to vote!

I urge you to vote this bill with the **recommendation to pass!** Here is no question that state inmates who also citizens will have a greater benefit – just to vote!

Thank you,

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