

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

I couldn't be more excited to send an email in support of SB 571 and HB 2366 and share the unique perspective I bring. I serve as a local elected for the largest parks special district in the state, Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District.

As an elected I serve everyone, regardless if they voted for me, if they are registered to vote, etc. And what I love about this bill is it makes every elected official, including myself, more accountable to all Oregonians, including those incarcerated.

The state of Oregon is a leader in voting rights and access, this is a critical next step: restoring voting rights for those currently in prison. Let's ensure that we don't punish any Oregonian by taking away one of their civil liberties. How do we ensure that individuals stay connected to their community and want to return? Returning their right to vote, as well as encouraging them to vote is one critical way to help them stay connected.

According to the Oregon Resource Center's Women in Prison Report, 75% of women incarcerated in Oregon are mothers. All mothers should have the right to vote for who leads their children's school district, which legislator advocates for education and which park leader will prioritize safety and community building.

Please vote yes on these bills!

Thank you,

Felicita Montebianco  
Aloha, Oregon