

Greetings Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Measure 110 Implementation. I write in support of prisoners' right to vote.

During the pandemic especially, I have followed the experiences of those people residing and working inside Oregon's prison walls. Prisoners washing OSHU sheets and gowns in crowded spaces. Guards unwilling to wear PPE, setting off deadly outbreaks. Prisoners scared to report symptoms because isolation and quarantine mean being placed in "the hole".

I think people behind bars are people. They are people interacting with the state, whether through prosecution or detention under the state's "care". As such, and given the extreme stakes of life or death that they face, in a state that has thus far failed to eliminate dangerous outbreaks, I feel strongly that people who are sent into jails and prisons must retain the right to vote.