

I would like to thank this committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony on SB 571.

I am writing in opposition to SB 571 and urge you to oppose this, as well. When a person commits a felony and is incarcerated, their rights are denied. Current law does not allow an incarcerated person the right to vote and why should they? These individuals have purposefully chosen to not follow the laws of our society and state, so why should they have the right to vote on our laws? Incarcerated felons should not be allowed to vote until they are either pardoned or served their time and have made reparation to the courts and/or victims.

Can you imagine all of the potential extortion this could create in our prisons and jails? This would provide an opportunity for the opportunists in our penal system to affect the integrity of our elections by buying/selling votes for their personal gain.

In closing, I am disheartened to see this bill would even be written or seriously considered. I would hope that no political party is in such desperate need of votes to allow incarcerated felons this right when they should chosen to blatantly break the law.