

Dear Committee Members:

As a member of the Policy Action Network of the Oregon Justice Resource Center and an Oregon voter, I am writing to offer my full support for S571/HB2355, which will restore voting rights to Oregonians in prison.

Every eligible American should have the freedom to vote no matter where they live or the color of their skin. The legislature can correct an old barrier written into the state constitution in 1857, when politicians were more concerned about excluding people than in making voting accessible. More recently, Oregon has led the country in expanding access to vote, first through vote by mail, then automatic voter registration, and most recently paid postage. We are the easiest state in which to vote--for some people. People in prison are still members of society as they serve their sentences. I urge the legislature to clean up this hurtful provision of law and make voting available to eligible Oregonians in prison.

Sincerely,

Lynda Martin-McCormick  
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Member, Oregon Justice Resource Center's Policy Action Network