

Submitter: Kyle Colleen Black
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB579

To the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee,

Regarding Senate Bill 579 - Allows persons convicted of felony to register to vote, update voter registration and vote in elections while incarcerated.

As of late I have heard this statement made numerous times "it's the Oregon Way"...which is as follows:

"At its foundation, the Oregon Way is about prioritizing employee health and wellbeing by normalizing the correctional environment and, in turn, improving the outcomes for incarcerated people. "

The Oregon Way is heading for the Department of Corrections Oregon Accountability Model...which is as follows:

"The Oregon Accountability Model (OAM) encompasses the simultaneous, coordinated, and efficient implementation of many Departments of Corrections' (DOC) initiatives and projects that provide a foundation for adults in custody (AICs) to lead successful lives upon release.

The ultimate goal of the OAM is to improve public safety. The model ties together many concurrent and interrelated efforts of the department and its partners into a cohesive strategy to reduce recidivism and help AICs to become productive citizens."

Restoring voting rights to those that are incarcerated is putting the Oregon Way and the Oregon Accountability Model's principles into action.

When individuals are asked to consider community situations, topics, and problems, there is a heightened level of accountability to that community. Allowing those who are incarcerated to participate in societal issues gives them the opportunity to care about and be responsible for their communities. It is a productive way for them to model what and who they will be upon release...part of their communities. Restoring voting rights would be a strategic Oregon way to reduce recidivism, and help individuals become productive members of society.....which is the goal of incarceration.

According to the proclamations and goals of the Oregon Way and the Oregon

Accountability Model, establishing voting rights for those that are incarcerated meets the theory behind them, and the practical application of them.

Thank you for considering this statement.

Kyle Colleen Black

Woodburn, Oregon