

Submitter: Robert Hart

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure: SB579

Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher, Members of the Judiciary Committee,

RE SB 579

I am opposed to SB 579 and urge you to stop this bill. Incarcerated felons have proven by their actions that they do not respect the society or the rules in which they live. Restoring rights should only occur after convicted felons have completed their incarceration and repaid all requirements of their conviction to include restitution. Restoring rights at that time is consistent with the long held belief that people need a second chance. But this proposal is not a second chance. This is another step toward the destruction of society by eliminating consequences for actions. The attitudes against police, the reduction of sentences for convicted felons, the decriminalization of drug use, all are contributing to the lack of civility and respect for the legal system.

I cannot conclude that passage of this bill will help rehabilitate inmates. However, I do see a coordinated group of people seeking to change how society functions as evidenced by the almost identical letters of support that have been submitted. This appears to part of a larger effort to eliminate all consequences for actions with soft District Attorneys, judges that minimize sentences, and calls for the closure of all prisons. The cumulative result of these actions will be complete anarchy. I urge you to reject this bill as has been done in the past.

Respectfully,
Robert Hart
Rogue River, OR