

January 25th 2023

Esteemed Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I have noticed that in SB 579 is looking to amend ORS 137.281, 247.013 and 247.035 and give incarcerated convicted felons the right to vote while in custody. I believe that this would be a big mistake and would create a grave injustice for the victims of those convicted felons.

Convicted felons, while incarcerated, are supposed to be serving a sentence, or punishment, for the crimes they have committed. Part of that punishment is giving up the ability to exercise their right to vote while incarcerated. Incarcerated felons should not have all the same rights and privileges as those individuals that are not incarcerated.

If a felon is incarcerated, that means that most likely the individual has at some point in time chosen to disregard society's rules and regulations, has been caught and is being punished for the choices made. While being punished, an incarcerated felon should not be given the ability to potentially change the rules and regulations that the individual originally chose to disregard.

Because of this, I strongly urge you to reject SB 579.

Sincerely,

Charles Rorive