

Submitter: Beatrix Li
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB579

To Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing today in support of SB579, which guarantees the right to vote for all Oregonians.

Restoring the vote for Oregonians with felony convictions is the right move for Oregon to take. It is a step towards racial justice, a step towards democracy, and will create a more equal place for all Oregonians to participate in our government.

As we know, voting increases community engagement, reduces recidivism, and has a strong correlation with better re-entry outcomes when people are given the opportunity to be an engaged, voting citizen. I also believe that we have to hear specifically from incarcerated Oregonians as they have a perspective and experience that we need in our community. I look to formerly incarcerated Oregonians for their understanding of the criminal legal system, as they have seen firsthand what kinds of changes need to take place to create a safer, healthier Oregon for us all. I believe that their voice should not be suppressed in the form of a vote.

Other states have passed this same legislation, and has seen positive results. We must move Oregon forward by guaranteeing a democracy that represents all of us.

Thank you for your time.
Beatrix Li