

SB 579 Public Hearing on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Wendi Brown

City of Central Point Resident

Dear Judicial Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for your time to hear my testimony. I have been a resident of Southern Oregon for over 20 years. I'm a mother, a business owner, and someone who has served the public sector for over 20 years as an employee and/or consultant.

I would like to express my opposition to Senate Bill 579, which proposes to give prisoners the right to vote. In my opinion, this is unjust, immoral, and could lead to voter corruption and manipulation within the prison system.

Incarcerated individuals have broken the law and as a result, have lost certain privileges, including the right to participate in the democratic process. Allowing prisoners to vote would be seen as an unjust reward for their actions and could undermine the deterrent effect of imprisonment. Additionally, prisoners are not fully participating members of society while they are incarcerated. They do not pay taxes, they do not live in the community, and they are not subject to the laws and regulations that govern the rest of society. Therefore, they should not have the same rights and privileges as law-abiding citizens.

The potential for voter fraud and manipulation within the prison system is a real concern. Incarcerated individuals are an attentive audience and likely a good voter base for one party or the other. This can lead to politicians creating laws that support the incarcerated voter base to gain their vote, which can lead to all kinds of negative laws, rules and regulations that support those that have broken the laws and are in opposition to the safety and health of law-abiding citizens.

Moreover, allowing prisoners the right to vote is a moral issue. Criminals who have been convicted of heinous crimes, such as murder, rape, and child abuse, for example, should not be granted the same rights as law-abiding citizens. They have violated the trust of society, and it is inappropriate for them to participate in the democratic process until they have completed their sentence and reintegrated into the community.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the implications of this bill and the negative impact it could have on our society. It is unjust, immoral, and will lead to corruption and manipulation of the law that is in direct opposition to law-abiding citizens. I strongly urge you to vote against the passage of Senate Bill 579. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendi Brown  
Concerned Citizen