

Submitter: Billy Anfield  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB581

My name is Billy Anfield, I'm the Advocacy coordinator for Central City Concerns Flip the Script reentry program. The Flip the Script program was designed to assist individuals who are being released from prison and identify as Black or African American. The program was launched in 2017 with the goal being to increase employment placements, secure permanent housing, and reduce the number of black people returning to prison. As the Advocacy Coordinator my primary responsibility is to empower those individuals enrolled in the program to elevate their voices to identify and speak about what they feel are the necessary reforms very much needed in the criminal justice and parole system. Their message is that many things need to change to support black individuals during their supervision.

Those of us who provide services to this population feel supervision should be a tool that supports re-entry. We feel the word vision implies helping people to find their path to success, and that supervision should not be a tool to intimidate nor cause unnecessary harm, stress, and trauma.

I have lived experience being on supervision for quite a long time. What I learned about myself was that after three years of being grounded in my recovery, sustaining employment, being self-sufficient, and reunited with family, that supervision seemed to be excessive and no longer needed. It felt as though I had an invisible ball and chain around my neck prepared to pull me down regardless of my achievements. The FTS alumni are men and women who have reached the same milestones I did, and who today after four and five years remain on supervision. Supervision should reward people for their hard work and success. Not hold them hostage by way of an extended sentence.

Thank you for allowing us to share our utmost feelings. We greatly appreciate your support in reducing the amount of time people are required to be under supervision by voting yes, to change Earned Discharge requirements.