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Kiesha Johnson
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My name is Kiesha Johnson. I am writing in support of SB 269, 270, and 579.

I spent 18 years in prison. During that time I enrolled in college at Portland State University. Now I am continuing my studies in the PSU Campus. I am part of PSU Rebound, and I am an Americorps member.

I am doing everything I can to advance myself and further my studies and my professional career. It is important that we as a society allow people to live beyond their one worst moment.

After serving my time in Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. I came out rehabilitated, and career focused. I decided to go into a license required field. I was honest and up front to the company and they took the chance at hiring me. I did the training, fingerprints, and started to work for the Garda World Security. I received the officer of the month award, Making a difference award. I never missed a day, I built my life around this job, brand new car, apartment. I was told I was gonna be ok. Eight months later, the state licensing department sent me a letter in the mail saying I could no longer work for them. The reason stated was my conviction.

I was an unarmed guard who was well trusted in this field by my supervisor, colleagues and my clients that I served. My family also depended on my income and in an instant I lost my job, my car, and became homeless.

I write to support bill 579, it shouldn't matter about my background if I qualify, and received training to get the proper license to do the job, I am trained to do is all that really should matter. Passing this bill will save and change lives for the better.

Thank you,
Kiesha Johnson