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TESTIMONY by Patty Youngblood CEO/co-founder Time Does Not Fit The Crime (TDNFTC)

I support SB 320 - Provides that person sentenced to mandatory minimum sentence under Ballot Measure 11 (1994), for crime other than murder, who has not been previously sentenced under measure is eligible for reduction in sentence for appropriate institutional behavior and participation in certain programming unless otherwise ordered by court for substantial and compelling reasons.

Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 11 in November 1994 to apply mandatory minimum prison sentences to certain crimes against persons committed on or after April 1, 1995, with no possibility for any reduction in sentence, such as achieving goals and having good behavior.

Sadly..... Almost 30 years later an overwhelming majority of Oregonians know little to nothing about this crippling law until personally faced with it themselves.

***Quote from voters pamphlet in 1994 "We must imprison all violent and repeat offenders and keep them locked up for a substantial amount of time".*** Notice it says "repeat offenders". Oregonians did not vote to imprison and label first time offenders under Measure 11. This turned Oregon into a one strike you're out state. First time offenders are not "repeat" offenders.

## **Prison is NOT the answer to all crimes**

Incentives are important for a person to improve. AICs need incentives to have a positive future. If first time offenders could "earn" sentence reduction/good time this would show, they want to improve and be a better person. Incentives play a big part of that role. Without incentives what is there to look forward to? How do AICs show they want to improve? Without incentives are there goals? Without incentives and goals how can an AIC better themselves upon release? Can anyone improve without incentives? Being able to "earn" sentence reduction/good time gives an AICs the incentive to work toward a positive goal and to be a better person.

As it stands today AICs serving the same time frame gets out at that same time frame. If an AIC is constantly in trouble and spends most of their time in the hole/confinement vs the one that shows respect, never in trouble, holds a job and want to take classes – both get out at that same time frame. If an AIC could "earn" an incentive to be able to be achieve a sentence reduction it would be a big impact of on a safer community.

SB320 is asking for first time offenders to be able to earn sentence reduction/good time. Not all first time offenders would be able to adhere to the rules of earning good time, but those who can would show others they are ready to be released and be a better person.

Who would you rather have as your neighbor? One that did their full time and the majority of that in confinement because they couldn't stay out of trouble and showed total disrespect to everyone or one that earned their way out?

Let us have a safer community by having first time offenders earn their way out of prison, not just do their time.

Thank you for listening and for your time.