

Submitter: Alice Fay
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB320

Changing someone else's behavior is an extremely complex process. Oregon has commissioned the Department of Corrections to do exactly that. We trust the DOC to not just place people in Time Out for a number of years, but to alter those behaviors that violate the well-being of and safety of all Oregonians.

Working in Special Education for a school district for 15 years, we were assigned to change the mind-sets and behaviors of many challenging students. Those in our care had an IEP, an Individualized Education Plan, because everyone is different and responds differently to corrections.

One flaw with Measure 11 was that Oregon lumped all the people who committed crime X, Y or Z, first offense or not, into set boxes and mandated that only after X number of years later, could these AICs be discharged as "corrected". This does not consider all the variables that can affect a realistic timeline of rehabilitation.

I was happy to see many students work through our programs at a faster pace with family support, determination and hard work. They were discharged when they were ready, not just because a calendar date said time to go.

Acknowledging that Measure 11 AICs are serving time for serious offenses, and recognizing that the vote of the people indicated that they want firm consequences for such crimes, it is still a fact that people mature and change at different paces. Some AICs do prove their resolve to amend their thinking and behaviors more quickly than others, and participate fully in whatever opportunities they receive in prison to achieve that.

For those few, first-time offenders who have solidly met the specific, remedial criteria laid out in SB 320, it is time to adjust their sentence.

Thank you for listening. Please support SB 320.