

Submitter: Isabela Villarreal

On Behalf Of: Jeffrey Holloway

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: Support Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579

March 14, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

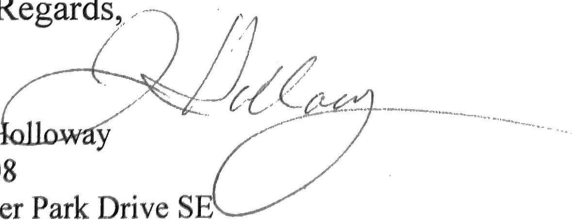
Thank you for efforts toward restoring the right to vote to incarcerated people. My name is Jeffrey Holloway and I am writing in response to your mailing brochure. I support this legislation because, although I've made some very poor choices in the past that led to my incarceration, I still consider myself a proud and patriotic member of the United States of America and I care about the policies and legislation that shape our state and country.

Being incarcerated in no way indicates that I am predisposed to being "soft" on criminal issues. I am just as troubled as the rest of society by gun violence, domestic terrorism, violent protests, the homeless problem, and the state of the economy. At some point, I will be releasing back into society and the type of communities I return to matter to me. I don't pretend to be an expert in constitutional law, but it seems to me that once I become a taxpayer, I'm entitled to some degree of representation, but if my voice is not recognized as a voter, where is my representation coming from?

I don't know the exact number of people incarcerated in Oregon, but it is somewhere around 13,000 and the vast majority of those, like myself, will also be returning to society. Considering all of the people in Oregon who are currently on parole and are ineligible to vote, it seems like a large percentage of the population are not being allowed to weigh-in on the policies and legislation that may significantly impact their lives.

Again, I thank you for your efforts on our behalf. I appreciate this opportunity to include my perspective.

Warm Regards,

  
Jeffrey Holloway  
#7192808  
3405 Deer Park Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97310