

March 14, 2023

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing today on behalf of Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) to express strong support for **SB 579, Voting by Adults in Custody**. COIN is made up of Indivisible groups from across Oregon that collaborate to protect democracy and implement progressive values through voter outreach and education, campaigns and elections, holding our elected leaders accountable, and advocating for legislation that best reflects our values.

I join other COIN members in urging you to pass **SB 579 so that adults in custody retain the most valuable right they have as Americans, the right to vote. I have a loved one who served time in the Oregon correctional system. I learned about what life is like for adults in custody.** These individuals remain citizens of the US during their prison sentence, and maintain connections and responsibilities with their communities and those on the outside. They are aware of what's going on in society, and many have a deep understanding and devotion to how their communities are governed. **Voting provides access and influence to policy making that affects all Oregonians, inside and outside prison. Being in prison does not suspend citizenship.**

When over 95% of adults in custody in Oregon return to our communities it makes sense that these individuals continue to engage in governance that affects their lives as it does those on the outside.

I urge you to support SB 579 and I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Read
328 7th Avenue
Seaside, OR 97138
COIN Legislative Team