



Families Advocating
Intelligent Registries

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SB 922
FWA

Favorable IF AMENDED Response to SB 922 Correctional Services – Diminution Credits – Education

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR) has a special concern for persons accused and convicted of sexual offenses, and seeks rational, constitutional sexual offense laws and policies. We are deeply disturbed by SB 922's exclusion of all persons who would be required to register. This is unnecessarily broad.

Diminution credit for educational achievement is an excellent, proven incentive for incarcerated persons. It opens doors once they are released, and provides a strong motivation for good behavior behind prison walls. SB 922 would provide a small deduction in prison time for a number of certifications, diplomas and degrees. As anyone counting the hours until release can tell you, any reduction is a huge incentive.

But there is no justification to exclude persons who would be required to register. Such diminution credits benefit persons who will be on the registry (and society at large) as much as and perhaps more than any other convicted person.

Contrary to common misperceptions,

1. Persons on the registry are far less likely to sexually reoffend (3 – 6%) compared to the re-offense rate of persons with other convictions (roughly 37%);
2. Many persons who are required to register have NOT sexually harmed a child, and a large number have non-contact offenses; and
3. Most registered persons are one-time offenders, NOT repeat or multiple.

Realities

1. Persons with sexual offenses face severe challenges upon their release. They are barred from many housing opportunities, struggle to find even non-child-related employment, and are restricted from participating in their children's lives due to presence restrictions.
2. With society's barriers so much higher, every incentive for sexual offenders to succeed should be provided, including diminution credits for education. Positive encouragement via diminution credits will benefit this population as much as, and probably more than, any other convicted group.

To conclude, FAIR is highly supportive of offering diminution credit for completion of educational goals. FAIR only requests that these credits apply to all persons behind bars, with no exceptions. Please vote NO for SB 922, or **amend it to match SB971**, which

is identical except that it merely reduces good time to 60 days instead of 90 for persons convicted of violent offenses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda V. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director
Families Advocating Intelligent Registries