



Families Advocating
Intelligent Registries

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**SB 971
In Favor**

Favorable Response to SB 971 Correctional Services – Diminution Credits – Education Milestones

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 fully support SB 971's opportunity for all former offenders to improve themselves while incarcerated.

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 971 would provide a small deduction in prison time in return for earning a number of certifications, diplomas and degrees. As anyone counting the hours until release can tell you, any reduction is a huge incentive.

Nearly all offenders are eventually released into our communities, and thus we are well-served to offer incentives behind the wire for persons to develop skills and knowledge that will help them become productive citizens. SB 971 gives that opportunity, with 60 days of dim credit even for persons with violent offenses, and 90 days of credit for nonviolent ones.

To conclude, FAIR is highly supportive of offering diminution credit for completion of educational goals and encourages this committee to vote in favor of SB 971.

Sincerely,

Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director
Families Advocating Intelligent Registries