

Unfavorable Response to SB1098 **Correctional Services - Diminution Credits - Sexual Offenses**

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR) seeks rational, constitutional sexual offense laws and policies for persons accused and convicted of sexual offenses. In this bill, it is clear that the sponsor has addressed ex post facto concerns. However, FAIR's main concern is the impact of this bill on community safety.

If reducing diminution credits would make our communities safer, we would support it. However, this approach is short-sighted – it simply delays an inevitable release with less encouragement to obtain important tools for successful integration back into society.

One stated purpose of the diminution credit process is to encourage positive behaviors, educational advancement, and meaningful participation in treatment and training programs for effective reentry back into the community.

If a person is dealing with a mental health issue or other circumstances (e.g., lack of formal education or training needed for future employment) that in the absence of intervention may lend themselves to committing a new offense, our communities would be much safer if these persons remain encouraged to participate meaningfully in effective treatment and/or training while serving time, and perhaps obtain specialized supervision restriction or continued treatment once released.

Preventing any individual from utilizing the incentives provided by our department of correction does absolutely nothing to prevent potential reoffence once a person is released. We urge the committee to return an unfavorable vote for SB1098.

Sincerely,



Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director
Families Advocating Intelligent Registries