

Testimony Against SB0962

Honorable Senators

Please enter an unfavorable decision about SB0962.

I am opposed to

- Prohibiting individuals convicted of certain crimes in relation to the attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, from serving on a board, committee, commission, task force, or workgroup created by state law, in the executive service of state government, or in a special appointment in state government; and
- requiring an appointing authority to take certain actions to remove or terminate the employment of an individual serving in a role in violation of the Act.

According to the Fiscal and Policy note, “This bill prohibits an individual convicted of a crime in relation to the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 from serving on:

- (1) a board, committee, commission, task force, or workgroup created by State law;
- (2) in the executive service of State government as defined under the State Personnel Management System (SPMS); or
- (3) in a position categorized as a special appointment under SPMS.

The prohibition applies regardless of whether the individual was subsequently pardoned.”

First of all, I am outraged that the writers of this bill continue to state the canard that police officers were killed during the attack on January 6th. No police officers were killed that day. The only 4 people who died that day were demonstrators, of which 2 were killed directly by police actions and 2 died from heart attacks after the flash bangs were shot into the crowd. I do not disagree that many courageous police officers were injured that day and that some died a few days later (I believe by suicide and stroke).

While I agree that those who injured law enforcement officials or damaged property in the Capitol should be barred from ever holding any public office, I disagree that all who were convicted should be treated so harshly. Many of those convicted of a crime were guilty at most of trespassing even though several of them were invited into the Capitol by Capitol Police or entered in unguarded doors just to see what was going on. Some were guilty of just walking in to use the bathroom and quickly exiting because the Mayor had locked all the portable toilets on the mall.

Because of an overzealous prosecutor, these people were given the harshest possible sentences for what should have at most a minor fine. Instead, these people were denied bail and waited months in jail before sentencing. After that treatment almost all plead guilty to avoid unjustly being charged with felonies for disrupting an official proceeding even though many entered after the proceeding had already been canceled.

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Many of these people came to the mall that day to hear the President speak about the 2020 election and to then go to Congress to give moral support to the Representatives and Senators from at least 6 states who were going to present up to 2 hours each of evidence of possible election discrepancies, irregularities, and instances of not following election laws. The purpose of these speeches was to persuade the House and/or Senate to agree to delay certification for one or more States until these alleged discrepancies could be investigated.

Just like the peaceful rally held on December 12, 2019, the people who arrived on January 6 expected another peaceful rally. This was not a planned insurrection. They had hoped those scheduled to speak in the House and Senate would present many hours of testimony about possible election irregularities and red flags of possible fraud that the national press and news media had refused to publish.

Instead, what started as a peaceful rally degenerated into a riot when the Capitol Police, without provocation, fired flash bangs into the crowd. Then anti-Trump agitators dressed as MAGA supporters and some hot-headed, misguided Trump supporters attacked the police. By doing so, the planned hours of nationally televised testimony about election irregularities was canceled. Whatever slim chance we had of Congress delaying certification disappeared as well.

Because of the harsh treatment many of these so-called insurrectionists received (jail time for trespassing with no evidence of attacking the police or destroying property), President Trump granted them pardons. A few never even entered the Capitol that day, yet were convicted of it anyway.

I believe that in a State where juveniles who have committed major felonies such as murder, rape, car-jacking have receive virtually no punishment, that you should not punish these so-called insurrectionists further by barring them from State employment should they seek it. Perhaps you could amend the bill to only bar those who attacked law enforcement or vandalized property.

Unless you amend the bill to limit it to those convicted of assault or vandalism, please enter an unfavorable decision about SB0962.

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