



October 14, 2021

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Michigan requests a hearing on SB 649: Good Time Credit. We support a Good Time Credit system for incarcerated citizens to reduce recidivism, increase safety within the Michigan Department of Corrections for both correction officers and incarcerated citizens; and to focus resources on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting successful reentry into our communities.

Michigan is one of only 6 states with no incentives for incarcerated individuals to better themselves. The Truth in Sentencing law causes incarcerated individuals in Michigan to serve an average of 6.4 years, making Michigan #1 in the country for length of time served.

In addition to the increased money (17 percent more than the national average) spent on those incarcerated because of the Truth in Sentencing law, we also pay a human price by not engaging in a program that supports and motivates good behavior. Positive motivation creates meaningful change in the prison and provides the incentive for a more successful second chance.

The League supports a scheduled hearing of SB 649 so that we can support a nation-wide movement to reduce mass incarceration, allocate resources from long-term sentencing to effective reentry programs in order to bring those incarcerated back to their families and to our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christina Schlitt".

Christina Schlitt

LWVMI Co-President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paula Bowman".

Paula Bowman

LWVMI Co-President