

Annemarie Grant for the record. **My public comment today is to urge this committee to recommend and support an amendment to AB356 adding posthumous exoneration for deceased persons to the bill. I watched the legislative discussions and was disappointed that language was not included in the bill as I believe it should be.**

While the wrongfully convicted is alive the burden and fight to exonerate their name does not belong to the wrongfully convicted alone. These people have families who also carry the burden and pain of knowing their loved one is innocent and advocating to exonerate their loved one. When an innocent person dies in prison the ultimate travesty of justice occurs. The battle for justice may end for the wrongfully convicted but their family still carries that burden. Currently in the state of NV there is no means for a deceased party or their family to exonerate them.

With the current Covid-19 pandemic I can only imagine how many will die while wrongfully convicted and before exhausting their efforts to be freed. Why is there no means for the families or other involved parties to continue the pursuit of justice? Dying in jail should not be the end of it! It certainly is not the end of the family's dilemma. I have personally witnessed the heartache, frustration, and despair families of the deceased wrongfully convicted endure. There is an obvious stigma of being the relative of someone wrongfully convicted but who never had a chance to clear their name before passing away. I have seen these families attacked by victims leaving disgusting, insulting, and vicious voicemails on the family's home answering machines all for wanting TRUE justice! I have also seen them slandered by former law enforcement as well degrading them for continuing to fight and not give up hope that one day they will clear their loved one's name! An innocent person dying in jail is not justice for anyone. Not for their family, not for the community, and not for the victim's.

I'd like to reference Ray Krone, an exoneree's, letter that was submitted to this committee for public comment today. "I don't ask you imagine what those ten years in prison were like for me. I want you to imagine what they'd be like for you if, if it were your son or daughter serving time for a crime they didn't commit. At what point would you stop fighting to clear their name? Being deceased should not exclude families from presenting newly discovered evidence and I implore this committee to do their part in creating a truly just justice system in NV