



State Senator Kayse Jama

Senate District 24 (D-East Portland)

Native land of Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes that made their homes along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2022

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Oregon Senate Approves Compensation for Wrongfully Convicted Oregonians

Senate Bill 1584 will establish compensation for each year an individual is wrongly imprisoned, on parole, in post-prison supervision, or on the sex offender registry.

SALEM, Oregon - Today the Oregon Senate approved Senate Bill 1584 on a vote of 25 to 0. This bill will provide \$65,000 per year of wrongful imprisonment, with an additional compensation of up to \$25,000 for years wrongfully spent on parole, post-prison, or on the sex offender registry. Senate Bill 1584 will also provide access to counseling, housing assistance, and personal financial literacy assistance to help wrongfully convicted persons rebuild their lives and re-enter society.

“Despite wrongful convictions resulting in wrongful incarceration, the inability to attain employment, and reduced accesses to assistance programs, Oregon is currently one of only 13 states that does not compensate wrongfully convinced people,” said State Senator Kayse Jama, “While no dollar amount can give back an individual the time they have lost due to wrongful conviction, Senate Bill 1584 provides critical resources for them to rebuild their lives.”

SB 1584 will also seal any records associated with wrongful arrest and conviction, and provides exonerees a certificate of innocence assisting reentry and recovery.

Senate Bill 1543 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

About State Senator Kayse Jama: Senator Jama represents Senate District 24 (East Portland and North Clackamas) and serves as the chair of the Senate Committee On Housing and Development, and the Legislature’s Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Caucus. He was the first former refugee, Muslim, and Somali-American to serve in the Oregon State Senate. Before his appointment, Sen. Jama was a prominent community organizer and Executive Director of Unite Oregon.