

## **Reform system to offer jobs after incarceration**

Congratulations to Javier Aguirre and Jeff Rosen on an op-ed about hope and redemption (“Fight crime by hiring someone with a criminal record,” Opinion section, May 10).

Most of those incarcerated are eventually released back into society without possessing any additional skills than when they entered custody. We need to provide basics like literacy and substance abuse intervention.

It is past time that we accept that we cannot incarcerate ourselves to safety, it isn’t economically feasible and the moral costs are likewise too high.

California regulates over 200 occupations and the professional boards are given vast powers by the Legislature regarding admission. The end result is that those with a criminal record may never be permitted to enter a profession.

We must review and reform that system so that we can both protect the public and provide a full way back to a productive life for those who are willing to work for it.

**Eugene M. Hyman**

*Los Altos*

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