

## SUPPORT SB 971 & SB 922

The Honorable Senator Will Smith  
Chair of Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Smith and Committee Members:

I would like to ask for your support for SB 971 & SB 922. This legislation would allow the Maryland Division of Corrections to establish a reward for inmates that successfully complete educational assignment's such as earning a GED or successfully completing occupational training.

During my 25 ½ years as a correctional principal, I learned that the inmate population is largely illiterate and not prepared to re-enter society and be successful with gaining employment. The average inmate waiting to enter my school read around the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. Most inmates have failed school for one reason or another. Many have bad memories about their school failures. We can force some inmates to attend school and others we cannot force to enter school. This bill would encourage more inmates to enter and successfully complete school.

We know from numerous studies that inmates who are successful with educational programs in prison are less likely to return. This benefits the individual, their families, our society and reduces state expenditures through a reduction in recidivism.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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