

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF Senate Bill 767

To: Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Chairman
From: Michael Hughes
P2P Scholar
February 25, 2020

Dear Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Members

I'm writing in support of SB767:

Higher Education - Admissions Process - Criminal History;
that would repeal the provision of law that authorizes institutions of higher education to use a certain third-party admissions application containing questions about criminal history; and prohibiting institutions of higher education from using an admission application that contains criminal history questions about the applicant.

My name is Michael Hughes

I'm a representative of Prison to Professionals mentorship program.

I am formerly incarcerated; here to earn your confidence in passing SB767 to repeal the provision that repositions the barrier to higher education for justice impacted people.

This bill is important to me, because I've seen the hopelessness & despair on the faces, in the countenance & the behavior risks of incarcerated men who only lack further education.

During my incarceration, I witnessed countless mens' aggression & despair subside over a short period of time & disappear with prolonged exposure to general & specialized higher education.

As a para-pro I watched effective measures of self-directed therapy launch once wounded men -- full of excuses -- into the realm of responsibility, accountability, ownership, sobriety & selflessness.

Passing SB767 will give all the right people a second chance, enhance my confidence & restore confidence of the community in the interdependence of government, citizens of conscience & guardians of morality, to all be credible messengers; actualizing success principles of life-promoting investments in redeemable people.

Corrections is about Law & order **and** clinical care. Higher Education is the clinical remedy for justice impacted people.

For the reason stated above I strongly urge this committee to make higher education -- without barrier -- for current & formerly incarcerated people a priority by voting favorably on SB767:

Higher Education - Admissions Process - Criminal History;

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Respectfully Submitted

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