



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

February 24, 2021

TESTIMONY

**Submitted by
Dr. Bernard Sadusky, Executive Director
Maryland Association of Community Colleges**

HB 723 – Public Institutions of Higher Education – Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals – Academic & Employment Opportunities

Position: Support

On behalf of Maryland's 16 community colleges, I want to thank the sponsor for introducing HB 723 that requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission in consultation with public institutions of higher education and Maryland Correctional Enterprises to provide information and outreach on postsecondary opportunities to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Postsecondary training and/or degree credentials are needed in almost all employment that leads to living wages. Incarcerated individuals often lack the knowledge on how to obtain this information. A unified outreach program designed for incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals will identify and encourage the pursuit of postsecondary opportunities. In addition, Pell grant revisions and other scholarship opportunities are now available for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals reducing the cost of pursuing postsecondary education credentials for these individuals.

MACC supports this legislation.