



Carrington & Associates, LLC

"Continuing A Tradition of Excellence"

SB 403 – Public Institutions of Higher Education - Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals - Academic and Employment Opportunities - SUPPORT

Carrington & Associates, LLC SUPPORTS SB403. This bill requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission, in consultation with public institutions of higher education and Maryland Correctional Enterprises, to establish a process to increase access to academic and employment opportunities at public institutions of higher education for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals who are or were employed by Maryland Correctional Enterprises during their incarceration.

We would like to thank Senator Jill Carter for introducing this legislation and her steadfast commitment to civil rights for all citizens, especially those from historically disadvantaged areas of our state. This straightforward legislation is about providing information and opportunity for a number of returning citizens that have spent time during their period of confinement working for an enterprise that they reaped very little financial reward. If considered an "apprenticeship" of sorts, then these individuals should be given a fair shot, with a more even playing field, at placement in our institutions of higher education and/or employment at a public institution. These returning citizens have already been working, some for many years, servicing state and local governments, as well as non-profit organizations and, under certain conditions, private industry. Many question if the history and use of correctional industries in Maryland, which dates back to the 19th century, needs to be revisited.

For these reasons, Carrington & Associates, LLC enthusiastically **SUPPORTS SB403** and asks for your **FAVORABLE** report.