



# NAACP

## *Maryland*

### STATE CONFERENCE

#### **Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee**

**Chairman Paul Pinsky**

#### **SB 800 - The Inmate Training & Job Act of 2021**

Dear Honorable members of the EHEA Committee,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Maryland Chapter of the NAACP to offer our strong support for Senate Bill 800 that is being heard in the EHEA Committee on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1 PM, sponsored by Senator Obie Patterson. The foundation of Senate Bill 800 will provide key services, education, and career technical training. The pilot program is designed to promote self-sufficiency and to reduce recidivism. The benefits of this pilot program will lead the returning citizen on a pathway to employment and a contributing member of society. I know Senator Patterson's work and commitment to this often forgotten about segment of our population. Therefore, I am fully confident that the goals and expectations of this program for those who enroll are on the right pathway to become a reality.

This bill, as written, will help to secure employment and opportunities for individuals who are trying to get back onto their feet and make a life for them and their families. It will also resolve the many problems that follow incarceration. For example recidivism, unemployment and the challenges of mental health due to being locked up for so long.

The NAACP Maryland State Conference Strongly Supports SB 800.

Respectfully,

*Willie Flowers*

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President