



COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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OFFICE OF THE DEAN

March 5, 2021

Senator Obie Patterson
Member, 26th District, Prince George's County
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

RE: Senate Bill 800

Dear Senator Patterson:

As Dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (CBSS) at Coppin State University, I am pleased to submit this letter of full support for Senate Bill 800: The Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021. As a college with both the behavioral and social science disciplines, who teach the behavioral and social sciences we recognize full well the impact of environmental circumstances on the human condition as well as the need for second chance opportunities.

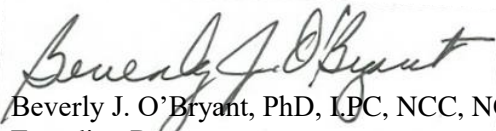
Coppin State University is an anchor institution in West Baltimore who has a significant student population from Maryland in general and both East and West Baltimore in particular. Our College of Behavioral and Social Sciences has an undergraduate and graduate degree program in criminal justice, three (3) certificate programs: Forensic Investigative Certificate, Policing Strategies Certificate, and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Investigative Sciences. We also have the Bishop L. Robinson, Sr. Justice Institute. - named after Coppin alumnus Bishop L. Robinson, Sr., who was the first African American Police commissioner of the Baltimore City Police Department. The headquarters building of the Baltimore City Police Department is named in Bishop Robinson's honor.

The Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021 would pilot cutting edge initiatives to provide workforce development, skills training and mentorship to eligible incarcerated persons. It would also provide 'real-world', impactful internships and stipends for students, translational research opportunities for both faculty and students, and the unique opportunity for students to make immediate differences.

Therefore, I wholly support the intent and concept of Senate Bill 800, Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021. Our CBSS criminologists, psychologists, professional clinical counselors, sociologists, social workers and political scientist would all attest to the robustness' of the literature which would also provide support and justification for the bill.

Please feel free to call upon me if you need any further information.

Respectfully,



Beverly J. O'Bryant, PhD, LPC, NCC, NCSC
Founding Dean