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**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**Testimony by**  
**Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director**  
**February 21, 2023**

**HB416 – Resources and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act**

**Letter of Information**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland’s 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education, support this legislation and thanks Delegate Amprey for including Anne Arundel Community College, Hagerstown Community College and Wor-Wic Community College among the institutions of higher education to consult with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to assist inmates in accessing federal Pell Grants.

Hagerstown Community College, Wor-Wic Community College, and Anne Arundel Community College currently provide educational programs to the inmates in Maryland’s prisons and have been doing so for several decades. Serving this population is considered a part of the community college mission.

With the Second Chance Pell initiative, the eligibility requirements for Pell grants and other financial aid opportunities will give inmates access to an array of programs, as well as a wide range of providers offering these programs. We are pleased to offer the extensive experience that these three community colleges have in serving this segment of our population and are pleased that the sponsor has included them in this legislation.

The Second Chance Initiative has expanded educational opportunities to credit-bearing programs of study that have the ability to transfer once an inmate is released. Several of our other community colleges are also in the process of establishing a programs to meet the needs of inmates in their jurisdictions.

Below are samples of some of the new and innovative community college programs for inmates.

- Hagerstown will be offering a Certified Production Tech Program that can transfer into an Advanced Manufacturing Certificate or degree.
- Wor-Wic Community College is ready to start adult basic education, business data instruction employment readiness workshops and computer skills.
- Anne Arundel Community College has introduced two credit certificate programs - Business Management Certificate and the Entrepreneurship Certificate.
- Allegany College of Maryland is in the process of establishing a Business Entrepreneurship certificate.

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, thank you for the opportunity to share this information with you on this critical legislation. We appreciate your support for our students.