



**REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE INSIDE**

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Chairman Luke Clippinger

Vice Chair David Moon

Members of the House Judiciary Committee

HB 1022 Post Conviction Work Readiness Program

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Reproductive Justice Inside is the only organization in the country that focuses our work to address the needs of systems-involved individuals seeking quality and timely sexual and reproductive healthcare. Our mission is to support and protect, as a fundamental right and value, reproductive freedom for the entire reproductive lifespan of incarcerated individuals and to address the conditions of confinement where systems-involved individuals are not in complete control of their reproductive futures and freedom.

We offer this testimony in support of HB 1022 – Post Conviction Work Readiness Program.

This legislation is good policy – it goes to the heart of our societal and state beliefs in reentry post incarceration. The intent of this legislation will enable individuals who are coming out of incarceration to rebuild their lives and return to their communities stronger, and engaged. Additionally, this legislation provides a framework to engage employers to hire these individuals and to educate them on the benefits of this virtually untapped workforce. Finally, it has built into it, what we believe is a critical component and that is reporting. This bill will create a mechanism that can document the importance of programs such as this and thus create scalability and replication across our state.

Currently, critical reentry assistance is fragmented and generally uncomprehensive. As a result, these individuals have a difficult time navigating a return to the workforce or in some cases entering for the first time. This leaves individuals and their families dependent on the social services system as they struggle to meet the requirements of their release and they are denied the opportunity to access the financial stability to move past incarceration.

We know that healthy, engaged and employed individuals create healthy communities. This legislation is a major step in the right direction to improve the financial stability of individuals returning to our communities, their families and fill critical workforce needs.

If we as a state are committed to our goals of rehabilitation and reentry, **HB 1022** will move us in the right direction.

Reproductive Justice Inside urges a favorable report on HB 1022.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Haven
Executive Director
Reproductive Justice Inside