
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Testimony by
Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director
February 23, 2023

HB661 – Workgroup to Study Reentry

Position: Support with amendment

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland’s 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education, support this legislation and thanks Delegate Lewis for amending HB661 to include us among the institutions involved in the Workgroup to Study Re-entry.

Serving this population is considered a part of the community college mission. Our community colleges have provided educational programs to the inmates in Maryland’s prisons for several decades. Our institutions know that providing education in prisons is proven to reduce recidivism rates, increase post-incarceration employment rates, improve public safety, and allows formerly incarcerated individuals to better reintegrate into society.

Community colleges offer both credit and non-credit courses of study, including Pell-eligible post-secondary courses. Most community college courses provided to inmates are non-credit courses of study that have evolved with need and demand over time. A sample of the training offered includes:

- Adult Basic Education
- Barber Stylist
- Business Office Management
- Construction Math
- Employment Readiness Workshops
- Introduction to Computers
- Internet Job Search
- Financial Literacy
- Parenting

We are pleased to offer the extensive experience that our community colleges have in educating this segment of our population and supporting their successful re-entry into the wider community. We are asking you to support the legislation as amended. Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and all your efforts to meet the needs of all Marylanders and the students we serve.

MACC requests a favorable position with amendment on HB661.