



NAACP

Maryland
STATE CONFERENCE

March 26, 2024

Appropriations Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB 370 – REAP Act

Members of the Committee:

I address you today to express my unequivocal support for Senate Bill 620, spearheaded by Senator Carter, in my capacity as the Executive Director of the Maryland NAACP. This bill marks a pivotal step towards fostering rehabilitation, reducing recidivism, and facilitating successful reintegration into society for incarcerated individuals.

First and foremost, SB 620 mandates the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to facilitate access to federal Pell Grants for higher education among incarcerated individuals. By creating opportunities for education behind prison walls, we offer a concrete pathway to personal growth and transformation.

Furthermore, this legislation sets targets for the participation of incarcerated individuals in educational programs and establishes mechanisms to monitor their progress. These provisions ensure accountability and efficacy, enhancing the impact of educational initiatives on rehabilitation outcomes.

Additionally, SB 620 acknowledges the significant societal benefits of educating the incarcerated. Numerous studies consistently highlight the role of education in reducing recidivism rates, thereby promoting safer communities and fostering economic stability.

We must acknowledge the daunting challenges that formerly incarcerated individuals face in securing employment. By providing access to education, we increase their prospects for economic security for themselves and their families.

In conclusion, endorsing SB 620 not only invests in the future of incarcerated individuals but also contributes to the overall well-being of our communities. This bill embodies a commitment to justice, opportunity, and the transformative potential of education. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

In Service,

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