

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Haywood Miles, and I am here today to express my strong support for House Bill 612, which seeks to allocate annual funding to support CCARS training in state prisons. As someone who has personally benefited from the peer recovery specialist training provided through CCARS, I can attest to the transformative impact this program has on individuals and the broader prison population.

The CCARS training equipped me with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to not only address my own challenges but also to support others in their recovery journeys. Through this program, I learned how to foster meaningful connections, provide guidance, and empower others to make positive changes in their lives. The training emphasized empathy, active listening, and practical strategies for navigating recovery, which have been invaluable in my personal growth and in helping others.

The benefits of CCARS training extend far beyond individual participants. By empowering inmates to become peer recovery specialists, the program creates a ripple effect within the prison community. Those who complete the training are able to serve as mentors and role models, fostering a culture of support, accountability, and hope. This not only helps individuals in their recovery but also contributes to a safer and more positive environment within the prison system.

Moreover, the skills and certifications gained through CCARS training prepare individuals for meaningful employment upon reentry into society. By investing in this program, the state is not only addressing the immediate needs of the prison population but also reducing recidivism and promoting long-term success for those reentering their communities.

I urge you to support House Bill 612 and ensure that funding is allocated annually to sustain and expand the CCARS training program. This investment in peer recovery specialists is an investment in the well-being of individuals, the improvement of our prison system, and the betterment of our communities as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Haywood Miles

[h.miles77@icloud](mailto:h.miles77@icloud) 301-710-8076