

**HB 194:** Incarcerated Individual Apprenticeship Pilot Program: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing as a concerned resident of Maryland, to urge you to **oppose House Bill 194**, the Incarcerated Individual Apprenticeship Pilot Program.

While the bill aims to provide paid apprenticeships in skilled trades to incarcerated individuals, initially focused on the Baltimore City Correctional Center, I believe it is misguided and sends the wrong message to law-abiding Marylanders.

My primary concerns include:

- **Prioritizing offenders over law-abiding citizens:** Maryland already faces a severe shortage of skilled trades workers. Apprenticeship opportunities and taxpayer-funded "...guarding, transporting, lodging, feeding, clothing, and medical and other care of an incarcerated individual while the incarcerated individual is participating in the Program..." **should first go to unemployed or underemployed residents who have not committed crimes, rather than giving preferential paid training to those currently incarcerated.**
- **Misplaced incentives:** Providing wages, formal apprenticeships, and credentials to prisoners while they are still serving time **rewards criminal behavior and undermines the deterrent effect of incarceration.** This could reduce the perceived consequences of crime at a time when public safety remains a top concern for many Maryland families.
- **Risk to public safety and program integrity:** Allowing incarcerated individuals to participate in structured paid work programs **raises serious questions about supervision, security, potential exploitation of labor, and whether participants will actually complete apprenticeships upon release.** Past correctional job-training efforts have shown mixed results in reducing recidivism, and this pilot risks becoming another unfunded or poorly overseen mandate.
- **Better alternatives exist:** Resources would be far more effective if directed toward expanding apprenticeship programs for at-risk youth, veterans, or displaced workers in the free community—people who are actively trying to build honest lives.

**HB 194** passed the House and is now before the Senate. I strongly encourage you to vote **NO** on this legislation and reject it in committee. **Maryland's limited workforce development dollars should support those who play by the rules, not those who have broken them.**

Thank you for your time and for prioritizing the interests of hardworking Maryland taxpayers and families. I respectfully request that you **oppose HB 194**.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals