



Support

House Appropriations Committee
House Bill 1505 (Simmons)
Higher Education – Loan Repayment and Scholarships for Correctional Officers

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On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the more than 56,000 students we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support regarding [**HB 1505 \(Simmons\) Higher Education – Loan Repayment and Scholarships for Correctional Officers**](#), which adds correctional officers as eligible recipients of the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers and Probation Agents and the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program.

In summary, this bill expands the existing loan repayment and scholarship programs to include correctional officers, recognizing the critical role they play in maintaining public safety and their commitment to serving the State. By adding correctional officers to these programs, HB 1505 acknowledges the risks and challenges they face daily, as well as their dedication to the well-being of our communities.

As institutions of higher education, we recognize the importance of supporting public servants who put their lives on the line every day. Correctional officers are no exception. They play a vital role in law enforcement, working tirelessly to maintain order and provide rehabilitation services within our correctional facilities. Like police officers, correctional officers are public servants who deserve our appreciation and support.

Including correctional officers in these programs is a well-deserved recognition of their service and commitment to the State. It also acknowledges the financial burdens they face in pursuing higher education, which is essential for career advancement and professional development. By providing loan repayment and scholarship opportunities, we can help alleviate some of these financial burdens and encourage more individuals to pursue careers in corrections.

We urge the Committees to support HB 1505, which takes a crucial step in recognizing the value and contributions of correctional officers in our State. We believe that this bill will have a positive impact on the lives of these dedicated public servants and will ultimately benefit the communities they serve.

Thank you for considering our testimony. We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.