



## Support with Amendments

### Senate Finance Committee *Senate Bill 623 (Carter) Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission*

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On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the nearly 55,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony support with amendments of [Senate Bill 623 \(Carter\) Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission](#). This bill establishes the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission to develop recommendations related to education and its impact on the criminal justice system. MICUA respectfully requests the sponsor consider an amendment to add one representative from the Goucher College Prison Education Partnership to the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission.

Maryland is unique in the number of higher education institutions to provide services to incarcerated individuals. The [Goucher College Prison Education Partnership \(GPEP\)](#), founded in 2012, collaborates with Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to offer college courses. GPEP offers a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIW) and the Maryland Correctional Institution in Jessup, Maryland. With over a decade of experience, GPEP provided more than 200 college courses to over 300 students with access to more than 100 professors. GPEP participants can complete their studies at Goucher or, upon release, transfer their college credits to any accredited college or university in the nation. SB 623 expands the Program to allow more inmates to participate and earn a postsecondary degree. GPEP is eager to build upon its existing relationship with DPSCS and provide educational opportunities to even more incarcerated individuals. Including a representative from GPEP on the Commission would provide trained individuals in educational settings to contribute to prison education reform.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Irnande Altema, Associate Vice President for Government and Business Affairs, [ialtema@micua.org](mailto:ialtema@micua.org).

***For all of these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report, with amendments, for Senate Bill 623.***