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Re: Community reentry/Driving privileges H4571

March 28, 2022

To those in consideration of issuance of reintegration driver license, I here contribute 15 years of professional experience in working with individuals transitioning from prison to community.

My experiences make it clear how important employment and legal transportation to it is vital to successful community reentry from correctional facilities:

Individuals who are employed compared to those unemployed are more likely to demonstrate:

- *Lower rates of recurrence*
- *Higher rates of abstinence*
- *Less criminal activity*
- *Fewer parole violations*
- *Improvements in quality of life*
- *More successful transition from long-term residential treatment back to the community.*

*Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Substance Use Disorders Recovery with a Focus on Employment and Education Issue Brief

I currently manage a large Salvation Army long-term residential recovery program in Mpls. All of our current sixty program participants are justice impacted individuals. Our community reentry phase includes a sixty-day period of ongoing free room and board for men who have gained employment toward saving money for next steps. Many have been furloughed to us directly from correctional facilities. Given the favorable job market and many more opportunities with companies who provide a livable wage, public transportation is not always a feasible logistical option whereas in many cases, legal driving status would make it possible to reach employment destinations.

I believe that I represent our organization as in favor of legislation in support of the Reintegration License legislation.

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