

February 24, 2020  
Chairman Clippinger  
Vice Chair Atterbeary  
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

HB 812 - Correctional Services - Diminution Credits - Education

**Position: SUPPORT**

My name is Kimberly Haven and I am in support of HB 812.

As one of the leading criminal justice advocates in our State, I urge this committee to support this legislation.

This legislation provides a dual incentive for those incarcerated in our state facilities. First, it should be noted that there are limited opportunities for programming. Despite what DPSCS would report, the programming that is available is becoming harder for inmates to access. There are long wait lists for the few available slots – as a result, inmates are limited in the ways in which they can work down their time.

Second, by crediting inmates with diminution credits for the educational programming that they have completed, has the dual benefit in increasing their opportunities and outlook for gainful employment upon their release. Studies have shown that education has a direct and positive affect on recidivism rates.

Finally the amendment that I would like this committee to consider is lifting the exclusion of those convicted of sexual offenses. This blanket exclusion is overly broad by definition and deprives those individuals of the ability to work down their sentences. This legislation is good policy and therefore I urge a favorable report on HB 812.

Respectfully, Kimberly Haven

2111 GOUGH STREET \* BALTIMORE, MD 21231 TL 443.987.3959  
KIMBERLYHAVEN@GMAIL.COM