

Dear Members of the Oregon Congress,

I am writing to you today to discuss the importance of higher education for individuals who are currently incarcerated or who are about to be released from custody. As someone who has personally experienced the challenges of incarceration and re-entry, I believe that access to education can significantly increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

For many individuals who have been incarcerated, the transition back into society can be difficult. Finding employment, securing stable housing, and rebuilding relationships with family and friends can all present significant challenges. However, access to higher education can provide a pathway to a better future, both for the individual and for society as a whole.

Studies have consistently shown that education can significantly reduce recidivism rates. In fact, a 2013 study by the RAND Corporation found that incarcerated individuals who participated in correctional education programs were 43% less likely to return to prison within three years than those who did not participate. Additionally, individuals who participate in education programs while incarcerated are more likely to find employment and earn higher wages after release.

Unfortunately, access to higher education for incarcerated individuals is often limited. Many prisons and correctional facilities do not offer any educational programs, and those that do often have limited resources and opportunities. This is a missed opportunity, not only for individuals who are incarcerated, but for society as a whole. By investing in education programs for incarcerated individuals, we can reduce recidivism rates, increase employment opportunities, and strengthen our communities.

I urge you to support legislation that would increase access to higher education for incarcerated individuals. By doing so, we can help individuals who are currently incarcerated or who are about to be released from custody to rehabilitate and lead successful lives, while also benefiting our society as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Launa Moody