February 14, 2019

Good Afternoon,

I am submitting this written testimony on behalf of Proposed House Bill 6883 An Act Concerning A "CORRECTIONS TO COLLEGE" PIPELINE FOR YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS, submitted by my colleagues Christopher Rosario and Andre Baker.

As chair of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, I am in support of this bill because we all know that mass incarceration has affected communities of color for generations, particularly young men of color. This bill mandates that youthful offenders being released from Manson Youth Institute will be assigned the necessary wrap around services that they need in order to not re-offend. This holistic approach to re-entry allows these youths the opportunity to reshape and reframe their lives mentally, physically, and educationally. This will improve their lives, their families’ lives and, by default, the communities they live in and this state.

As a native and resident of the city of Hartford I represent many individuals and families who will benefit from this legislation and help to shift the trajectory of the lives of many. It is my hope that this committee will see the importance and value of this legislation and bring it to the floor for discussion.

Thank you for your diligence,

Brandon L. McGee Jr., State Representative