

## H.R.7273 - Prison to Proprietorship for Formerly Incarcerated Act

Dear Congressman Hakeem Jefferies

I am currently a Master of Social Work Student at Alliance University as well a general preventive case planner for the Child Center of NY. I am writing to you to express my support of H.R. 7273 a bill which you have proposed to direct the Small Business Administration, in coordination with the Bureau of Prisons, to require the Service Corps of Retired Executives to provide entrepreneurship counseling and training services to formerly incarcerated individuals.

Having connections to individuals that have been incarcerated and returned to their communities after serving their time, I understand that finding their place back in society can be difficult. Often times they are ostracized and stigmatized due to their past, making it difficult for them to find employment. It doesn't seem fair that after serving their time they are being told to assimilate back into society without the means to do so. Similar to what is happening in our state that is allowing individuals who have been convicted of a marijuana-related offense, to be the first to be approved for licenses to sell marijuana legally; this gives these individual the opportunity to get a fresh start and the opportunity to be successful for not only themselves but their families as well. Your bill will give formally incarcerated individuals the tools necessary to forge their own futures giving them the ability to provide for themselves and their families; as well allow them to be constructive members of society and staples in their communities. I am in full support of bill H.R. 7273 and look forward to it being passed into law.

Jason Bruno

Master of Social Work Student

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