



MICHIGAN JUSTICE ADVOCACY
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Support of House Bill 4670

To: House Rules and Competitiveness Committee

September 28, 2021

Dear Chairman Lilly and distinguished committee members,

On behalf of Michigan Justice Advocacy, I am writing you today to voice support of House Bill 4670, otherwise known as Productivity Credits. We applaud Representative Kahle, Slagh, Posthumus, Tyrone Carter and Calley for their efforts to introduce constructive and positive incentives into laws pertaining to those in the custody of the Michigan Department of Corrections. The benefits of positive incentives such as those promoted by HB4670 are numerous and well documented; reducing misconduct both while incarcerated and post-release, higher likelihood of success upon reentry into society, reduced recidivism, improved odds of employment and greater public safety to name a few. These results can also be measured in economic benefits to society.

But more importantly these incentives are good for the restoration of individuals who have broken the law and wish to make amends. By providing a means for someone to demonstrate their desire to change and equipping them with the skills for success we all benefit. Neighborhoods benefit from returning neighbors who have renewed self-esteem and a new sense of purpose. Individuals who have made mistakes in their lives benefit from the trust that is bestowed in them through a system that strives to correct and rehabilitate. They recognize the opportunities given to them and respect the chance to prove themselves once again to society. Dollars spent to rehabilitate are a far better investment than those spent to punish without the goal of returning an improved individual back to society.

We at Michigan Justice Advocacy are strong proponents of creating and implementing positive incentives such as Productivity Credits into our state's correction system. We therefore urge the passage of HB4670 and look forward to this bill's progress in the coming days.

Sincerely,

John W. Wagner

Jack Wagner, President
Michigan Justice Advocacy