



STUDENT PEACE ALLIANCE



EDUCATION FROM
THE INSIDE OUT COALITION

The Get REAL Campaign One Pager

THE MISSION:

The REAL Act is a piece of legislation that reverses a 1994 ban on access to education for incarcerated people by reinstating their Pell Grant eligibility. In partnership with student groups and community-based organizations throughout the United States, we aim to remove institutional barriers that prevent incarcerated people from accessing higher education. The REAL Act is an important first step in ensuring that incarcerated people can access and afford higher education opportunities.

THE NEED:

By reinstating eligibility for incarcerated people, the REAL Act can help reduce recidivism, strengthen communities, and save money by providing opportunities for people to improve their lives and access jobs after release. Higher education increases opportunities for mobility and financial security; however, our excessively punitive regime of laws prevents incarcerated people from receiving a college education that helps to break cycles of poverty and violence.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE: Our support for the Real Act is built on the principle that education is a human right. We believe that overturning the ban on Pell Grants for incarcerated folks is an important step towards greater racial and socioeconomic justice in higher education.

DISPELLING MYTHS: Expanding Pell Grant eligibility does not decrease the amount of funding available for traditional students. The Pell Grant program is a quasi-entitlement and receives whatever funding is necessary for all income eligible persons.

RESEARCH SUPPORTS REINSTATING PELL GRANTS:

- *Education dramatically reduces recidivism and increases public safety.*
- Of the 700,000 people released each year, 43.3% will return to prison within three years of release. This rate drops to 13.7% for Associates Degree recipients, 5.6% for Baccalaureates recipients, and less than 1% for those with a Masters.
- In 1994, at its highest rate of usage, awards represented only 1/10 of 1% of total grant awards, making this program more cost-effective than re-incarceration.
- A 1997 study of the return on investment for Florida's prison education program found that the state experienced a \$3.53 return for every \$1.00 invested in the academic education of incarcerated individuals.

WHEN YOU EDUCATE AN INCARCERATED PERSON, YOU ARE ALSO EDUCATING THEIR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND ALL THOSE AROUND THEM. YOU ARE NOT ONLY SERVING THEM, YOU ARE SERVING SOCIETY AS A WHOLE. - ANDRE CENTENO



Please visit www.StudentPeaceAlliance.org
to learn more or get involved!