AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL March 1, 2022

Los Angeles County Co-Sponsorship of Assembly Bill 2425: Hire UP: From Corrections to Careers Pilot Program

According to the Center for American Progress, it is estimated that between 70 and 100 million Americans, or one in three adults, have a criminal record.[1] In the digital age, this record, no matter how minor, can be the barrier to re-entry, economic stability, and full participation in society. As a result, overincarceration has risen to be one of the main drivers of poverty and racial inequity in the United States. For example, nine in ten employers, four in five landlords, and three in five colleges and universities now use background checks to screen for applicants with criminal records.[2] These resulting barriers to employment, housing, education and other opportunities have made economic stability and mobility a non-starter for millions of families, disproportionately from communities of color. Up to 75% of those with a criminal record are still unemployed a year after they exit incarceration.

It has been shown through State and County High Road Training Partnerships that providing stipends while individuals are participating in training for high road careers allow

[1] https://www.americanprogress.org/article/one-strike-and-youre-out/
[2] Ibid.

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individuals to sustain basic needs while concentrating on career advancement. This is particularly important as individuals exiting incarceration gain transferrable skills to re-enter the workforce. Additionally, many credential attainment career pathway programs are full time, making it difficult for participating individuals to attend and graduate if they do not have an alternate source of income. The Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act which our Los Angeles County's (County) Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services administers, does not allow for training stipends. Assembly Bill (Bryan) 2425 would, in part, close this gap by providing stipends while also connecting formerly incarcerated individuals to college credentials and high road career pathways in green-energy, healthcare, construction and infrastructure jobs, among others.

This bill will create pipelines to quality jobs, upward mobility, and income security for those exiting incarceration. This program is intended to supplement and align with the broader workforce and education system in the State of California. Further, this bill will establish a program to be administered by the California Community College Chancellor's Office, and in partnership with the Rising Scholars Network, will provide stipends equivalent to the State's minimum wage to individuals within 3 years of exiting incarceration and while they are participating in a credential attainment or career training program.

Consistent with the County's Fair Chance Hiring Campaign, the effort to employ those with barriers into County employment through the Preparing Los Angeles for County Employment Program, and the commitment to a "Care First" model of service delivery, this bill aims to help those who have been left at the margins of our economy.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS authorize the County of Los Angeles (County) to co-sponsor AB 2425 (Bryan) "Hire UP: From Corrections to Careers", along with the Los Angeles Community College District and direct the County's Sacramento advocates to take all appropriate legislative advocacy actions to support this effort.

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