



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nation's Largest Prosecutor Organization Endorses Pell Grant Restoration for Incarcerated Students

ARLINGTON, Virginia – The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) today endorsed the bipartisan *Restoring Education and Learning Act (REAL Act)*, which would restore Pell grant eligibility for prisoners who qualify for the federal program.

The bottom line is that Pell grant restoration for incarcerated students will continue ongoing efforts to reduce recidivism while improving outcomes for individuals released from prison.

Over the past three years, both the Obama and Trump administrations have taken critical steps to restore funding to new Second Chance Pell sites to provide incarcerated students with certifications, associates, and bachelor's degrees at state prisons. Now, Congress needs to fully restore federal Pell grant eligibility for prisoners as the next step in criminal justice reform as we work to continue to prioritize the safety of the communities our members serve.

Prosecutors around the country have embraced reforms to ensure a fairer and more equitable criminal justice system. Among those is the *FIRST Step Act of 2018*, which took critical steps to reform prisons and sentencing guidelines in a way that both reduced recidivism and protected public safety. As the *FIRST Step Act* is implemented, the nation's prosecutors are working with lawmakers and advocates to evaluate the potential next steps to ensure those who are incarcerated are successfully reintegrated into society. Restoring Pell grant eligibility for incarcerated students will improve the criminal justice system and serve as a second step following implementation of the *FIRST Step Act*. We will continue working alongside Congress to ensure prisoners are given access to federal Pell grant funding for increased educational opportunities.

The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), www.ndaa.org, is the largest prosecutor organization in the country, representing 2,500 elected and appointed District Attorneys across the United States, as well as 40,000 Assistant District Attorneys.

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