

My name is Jenessa Lu and I have been a bordering student living on the campus of Ethel Walker School for the past four years as an international student. I support Bill No. 875: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RISK OF HOMELESSNESS FOR THOSE RELEASED FROM THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.

As the bill states and asks for the Department of Correction, the Board of Pardons, and Paroles and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to develop a risk assessment strategy for offenders committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction, it provides strategy to further support the reentry of the incarcerated persons into the community. These strategies include usages of risk assessment tools, support programs, and gender responsive approach to recognize and fulfill necessary needs and successful reentry into the community for offenders.

In addition to development of former strategies, the bill also suggests the Department of Correction, the Board of Pardons, and Paroles and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to partner with educational institutions to customize the assessment. What is the most significant and effective of this assessment is the returning home program. Providing housing assistance for persons released to parole or supervised community setting. Rapid rehousing and related services, including a report from the Department of Correction of the housing needs of the homeless incarcerated persons should be established to ensure a successful reentry of the offenders to the community.

The bill is a support of the rights of the victims, protection of both public and individual safety, and promotion of a successful transition of offenders to the community. The programs, ranging from education to housing, should be a basic and fundamental service provided for incarcerated persons rather than a pure benevolent sympathy.