



March 26th, 2024

Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee Members
Chair Latz, Vice Chair Oumou Verbeten, and Ranking Minority Leader Limmer

Re: SF 4269 Oumou Verbeten: Postsecondary education institutions incarcerated and postprison persons provisions modifications

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Committee:

The Justice for All Coalition is thrilled to support SF 4269 and thank Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten for her leadership in championing this bill. The provisions in SF 4269, including banning the box for college applications and income-driven repayment for incarcerated borrowers, align closely with our coalition's values and priorities.

By implementing ban the box for college applications, you are helping to ensure that individuals with justice involvement have a fair chance at pursuing higher education. Additionally, including income-driven repayment and college credit as part of parole agreements recognizes the transformative power of education in breaking the cycle of incarceration, promoting successful reentry, and establishing best practices within the Minnesota Department of Corrections for prison education partnerships, particularly the prohibition of partnerships with for-profit institutions, reflects a dedication to quality education and rehabilitation for incarcerated individuals.

Marginalized communities, especially Black and Brown individuals, face many systemic barriers to accessing higher education and achieving successful reintegration into society. By supporting SF 4269, we are moving toward a more equitable and just system that provides opportunities for education and rehabilitation to all individuals, regardless of their past involvement with the criminal justice system.

Again, we sincerely appreciate Senator Oumou Verbeten's efforts in developing this comprehensive and impactful legislation.

Thank you all for your continued leadership on these critical issues.

Sincerely,
Justice for All Coalition

The Justice for All Coalition is a collective of advocates, defendants, lawyers, social workers, leaders, and those who have firsthand experience with the criminal legal system pressing for or resisting reforms to seek meaningful legal system transformations that protect public safety while addressing and transforming those parts of the system that do more harm than good.