

Hello,

My name is Anitria Blue from New Hour. This is the testimony I wish to submit on behalf of TAP.

"Restoring TAP to incarcerated individuals is important because it affords many the opportunity for an education that will help them successfully reintegrate back into society. This knowledge helps build the power of communication and problem-solving skills that will help make our communities safer and more productive.

Education is also transformative by providing opportunities to develop one's own future. This opportunity develops a sense of hope that helps build character, increase a high level of confidence, and instill a sense of hope for success that so many incarcerated individuals lack.

Education can significantly determine the quality of one's life! With education, one can learn important qualities such as self-care, practical life skills and interesting ways to give back to the community.

With education, one will have the motivation to explore ideas, gifts, talents and the ability to exercise creativity. This fact could help generate personal income that would discourage criminal activity that initially led to incarceration.

The lack of access to education can be considered the root of poverty in underserved communities. It is safe to say that the higher the education, the lower the crime rates!

My dream was to become a medical doctor in order to help as many people possible. Unfortunately, incarceration made this dream impossible, but my desire to help others was not lost. I received my A.A. and B.A. degrees while incarcerated because I understood the value of education.

I learned that education breeds knowledge and knowledge is power. It is one of the major ingredients of success. For me, success includes, but is not limited to, having the ability to manage my mental and emotional states in order to make the best decisions, for decisions will have a direct and indirect impact and consequences. Success also means achieving goals that I create for myself such as understanding why I committed my crime and how to avoid situations that led to the crime.

I am only one example of what an individual looks like once an education is attained behind prison walls."