

# TUPIT: The Tufts University Prison Initiative of Tisch College

## WHAT WE KNOW...

- ▶ Over 75% of people released from state prisons are reincarcerated within 5 years (National Bureau of Justice).
- ▶ Any formal education in prison reduces recidivism to 43%. Receiving a college degree in prison reduces the rate to as low as 2 to 0% (RAND 2013).
- ▶ Prison education increases the odds of finding employment after release by 13% (RAND 2013).

## WHAT MASSACHUSETTS DOES...

The recent criminal justice reform bill ...

- ▶ Raises from 7 to 12 the minimum age a child can be held criminally responsible and tried in juvenile court.
- ▶ Restrictions should be placed on solitary confinement usage to limit the current statute that allows a person to be sentenced to solitary for up to 10 consecutive years at a time.
- ▶ We should see increases in compassionate release for low-risk individuals and the elimination of mandatory minimums for low-level drug offenses.
- ▶ Expungement of records should be made easier for those who have a good record or committed a crime that is no longer illegal in MA.

## WHAT WE DO...

### COLLEGE DEGREE PROGRAM IN PRISON

- ▶ TUPIT offers Tufts courses taught by Tufts faculty members in prison, giving incarcerated students the opportunity to earn an associate's degree in the liberal arts from Bunker Hill Community College after 3 years of successful coursework. Our goal is to develop the opportunity for these students to earn a bachelor's degree from Tufts.
- ▶ Courses offered on the inside include, among many others, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Quantitative Reasoning, International Law and Civil Society; Poetry; Introduction to Philosophy; Introduction to Biology; Health and Human Rights; Introduction to Coding.

### PETEY GREENE PARTNERSHIP:

- ▶ Many Tufts students serve as tutors and TAs each semester in our college degree program and in other correctional facilities through their participation in the student chapter of Petey Greene.

### INSIDE-OUT CLASS IN PRISON

- ▶ Undergraduate and graduate students from Tufts have the opportunity to study as co-learners with incarcerated students through the Tufts course Mass Incarceration and the Literature of Confinement.

## CONTACT

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