

Elected Official Name

Elected Official Address

Date

Dear **Elected Official [NAME]**,

I am writing to express my strong support for the inclusion of the SUNY Office of Higher Education in Prison (OHEP) in the enacted New York State Senate One-House budget and to advocate for its inclusion in the upcoming enacted budget. The Senate's One-House budget included \$3 million in funding for this vital program which currently relies solely on private funding.

SUNY's higher education in prison programs are critically important because when justice-impacted individuals have access to rigorous higher education in prison, followed by comprehensive reentry navigation and community-based supports, they are more likely to persist, graduate, gain stable employment, and positively influence their families and communities.

With an investment from New York State, SUNY OHEP will be able to continue its mission to expand to all 41 state prison facilities and continue to grow its support for students and alumni seeking to continue their academic pathways upon release from incarceration.

At **[organization name]**, our mission is to **[insert mission statement]**. We are deeply invested in seeing SUNY expand its capacity to provide this meaningful higher education in prison work, which strengthens both individual lives and broader community outcomes.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to ensure that funding for OHEP remains a priority in the final state budget.

Sincerely,