

## CALL TO ARMS FOR EDUCATION

On May 21, 2015, U.S. Rep. Donna F. Edwards (MD) introduced the Restoring Education and Learning (REAL) Act, H.R. 2521, which would make state and federal prisoners eligible for Pell grants - a form of financial aid for post-secondary education programs. It currently has over two dozen co-sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives, one of whom is U.S. Representative Danny K. Davis from Illinois.

There has been a sea change in opinion over the past few years on this issue and now is the time to act. We all are always complaining about the dearth of educational programs here at Stateville, and the inability to obtain a college degree while incarcerated. Restoring Pell grants to prisoners would go a long way towards fixing both.

Prisoners and their family members and friends need to contact members of Congress and urge them to co-sponsor or support passage of the REAL Act, H.R. 2521. (The Representatives from Illinois are: Mike Quigley; Tammy Duckworth; Janice Schakowsky; Bill Foster; Cheri Bustos; Danny K. Davis; Bobby L. Rush; Robin Kelly; Daniel Lipinski; Robert J. Dold; Luis Gutierrez; Mike Bost; Peter J. Roskam; Rodney Davis; Randy Hultgren; John M. Shimkus; and Adam Kinzinger. The Addresses of which can all be located in the Handbook of Government (Illinois)).

[www.congressmerge.com/onlinedb/](http://www.congressmerge.com/onlinedb/)

The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, which is chaired by Rep. John Kline. The ranking Democratic member of the committee is Rep. Robert Scott. Contact them both as well at:

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2131 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515