

Amani,

Peace and blessings young sister. Congratulations on your marriage, y'all truly look good together. As driven as you are for the people, I'm sure the young brother is also a people's champ too. I have been inspired by your work ethic for us, and right now, I am planning a way to send the R2V some funds. If the institution does not let me send it from my Inmate Trust Fund Account, I will have my mom send it to you. As little as it may be, I'll do what I am able. On another note, there are multiple brothers who want to sign-up to receive the R2V also, and I will be sending those names along with additional information, such as: a copy of the North Carolina Criminal Sentencing Reform bill and a copy of my Associates Degree that I have recently received from Campbell University.

As you may know, Dr. Bob Barker was a major contributor to the funding of the program. In no way do I excuse his contribution to the mass-incarceration machine, but I can say that he has multiple programs and organizations to slow the effects of recidivism. In the second-to-last report, you mentioned calling out corporations like BBC, Global Tel Link, etc. for accommodating mass-incarceration, and I believe these corporations should at least provide opportunities to the human capital they benefit from hand-over-fist. Bob Barker and the Sun Shine Ladies foundation started in the right direction with this program, but situations like these only accommodate but so many people at a time. Plus, states like North Carolina are hard-pressed about assisting such foundations with the proper support to make these state-wide programs because of "security" issues.


Now, there are two cohorts of students taking the program. The first group, which started with 15, 11 completed the program and graduated with an Associate Degree, but only 10 will continue studying for a Bachelor Degree in Communications. The second group just started on

Friday, September 10, 2021 | 2

their Associate Degree. We are all going through the fire of bureaucratic red tape and COVID restrictions. I could complain for days, so I won't travel down that road. The blessing of the entire situation is that I am able to do something that many of my brothers and sisters around the country could only dream of doing, so my classmates and I have been setting the bar high to ensure they continue to fund this program in hopes that others will produce more like it around the country.

Once again, I just want to thank you for keep<sup>in</sup> us incarcerated brothers and sisters informed on legislation and prisoner advocacy. When I am released in about four years or less, I would like to help this organization in any way I can. As long as you keep us reppin' for us, I'm going to keep enlightening others of your gallant efforts. Peace sister.

-In Solidarity,



Jalani L. Smith Bey

P.S. you can look us up online  
at Campbell University Adult-Online-Education  
Webpage.

# 1383177  
PO Box 1109  
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 625

Short Title: Criminal Sentence Reduction Reform. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Alston, Clemmons, Gailliard, and Morey (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 22, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT CRIMINAL SENTENCE REDUCTION REFORM.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 SECTION 1. Article 83 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes is amended by  
5 adding a new section to read:

6 **"§ 15A-1357. Modification of an imposed term of imprisonment.**

7 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual serving a term of  
8 imprisonment pursuant to G.S. 20-179 or Article 81B or 82 of this Chapter, except those  
9 sentenced to life imprisonment, may file a motion for appropriate relief in accordance with  
10 Article 89 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes for a modification of the person's sentence  
11 pursuant to the authority granted in this section.

12 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court shall reduce a term of  
13 imprisonment imposed upon a defendant for an offense if:

14 (1) The defendant was sentenced pursuant to G.S. 20-179 or Article 81B or 82 of  
15 this Chapter and has served at least five years in prison.

16 (2) The court finds, after considering the factors set forth in subsection (c) of this  
17 section, that the defendant is not a danger to the safety of any person or the  
18 community and that the interests of justice warrant a sentence modification.

19 (c) The court, in determining whether to reduce a term of imprisonment pursuant to  
20 subsection (c) of this section, shall consider:

21 (1) The defendant's age at the time of the offense.

22 (2) The history and characteristics of the defendant.

23 (3) Whether the defendant has substantially complied with the rules of the  
24 institution to which he or she has been confined and whether the defendant  
25 has completed any educational, vocational, or other program, where available.

26 (4) Whether the defendant has completed any behavioral health treatment or  
27 stabilization.

28 (5) Any report or recommendation received from the district attorney in the  
29 prosecutorial district in which the conviction was entered.

30 (6) Whether the defendant has demonstrated maturity, rehabilitation, and a fitness  
31 to reenter society sufficient to justify a sentence reduction.

32 (7) Any statement provided orally or in writing pursuant to G.S. 15A-832.1(c) by  
33 a victim of the offense for which the defendant is imprisoned or by a family  
34 member of the victim if the victim is deceased.



- 1           (8)   Any reports of physical, mental, or psychiatric examinations of the defendant  
2           conducted by licensed health care professionals.
- 3           (9)   The defendant's family and community circumstances at the time of the  
4           offense, including any history of abuse, trauma, or involvement in the child  
5           welfare system.
- 6           (10) The extent of the defendant's role in the offense and whether, and to what  
7           extent, an adult was involved in the offense.
- 8           (11) The diminished culpability of juveniles as compared to that of adults, and the  
9           hallmark features of youth, including immaturity, impetuosity, and failure to  
10          appreciate risks and consequences, which counsel against sentencing them to  
11          lengthy terms in prison, despite the brutality or cold-blooded nature of any  
12          particular crime.
- 13          (12) Any other information the court deems relevant to its decision.
- 14          (d)   A motion for appropriate relief filed pursuant to this section shall not be granted or  
15          denied without a hearing held in accordance with Article 89 of Chapter 15A of the General  
16          Statutes.
- 17          (e)   Any defendant whose sentence is reduced under this section shall be resentenced  
18          pursuant to G.S. 20-179 or Article 81B or 82 of this Chapter, as applicable."
- 19          SECTION 2. This act becomes effective December 1, 2021, and applies to motions  
20          for appropriate relief filed on or after that date.

# Campbell University

on the recommendation of the Faculty of  
The College of Arts and Sciences  
the Board of Trustees has conferred upon

**Jalani Umar Smith**  
the degree of

**Associate of Science**

with all the rights, honors and privileges thereto appertaining.

In Testimony Whereof, the seal of the University has been affixed at Quince Creek,  
North Carolina, this thirty first day of August, two thousand and twenty one.

*Benjamin A. Stinson*  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

*Michael B. Wells*  
Dean



*Bradley Coak*  
President of the University

*Mark T. Hammond*  
Provost