



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

45 SHAWMUT ROAD | CANTON, MA 02021 | 781.830.4800 | F: 781.830.4801 | [www.norfolkda.com](http://www.norfolkda.com)

**MICHAEL W. MORRISSEY**  
NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## Press Release

### Norfolk DA Morrissey joins national call to Restore education opportunities for prisoners

Contact: D. Traub, 781-830-4917

Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey is joining the country's largest prosecutors association in calling for restoring Pell grants for incarcerated students.

"Cutting support for prisoners who are trying to learn the skills to build a better future for themselves is short-sighted and counter-productive," District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said. "Massachusetts now has the lowest incarceration rate among the states. While we may not contribute to the country's mass incarceration problem, we have a clear recidivism problem: An unacceptable number of people released from jails and prisons find themselves incarcerated again."

That is why Morrissey and other progressive prosecutors push for local re-entry programs and services to help prisoners transition from incarceration to stable, productive lives, he said.

The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) on August 1 endorsed the bipartisan, federal, Restoring Education and Learning Act (REAL Act), to restore Pell grant eligibility for prisoners who qualify.

In a press statement, the NDAA said: "Over the past three years, [federal authorities] have taken critical steps to restore funding to new Second Chance Pell sites to provide incarcerated students with certifications, associates, and bachelor's degrees at state prisons. Now, Congress needs to fully restore federal Pell grant eligibility for prisoners as the next step in criminal justice reform as we work to continue to prioritize the safety of the communities our members serve."

"Massachusetts District Attorneys have made great strides, over several years, cutting our incarceration rates without sacrificing public safety, but our work is not done," District Attorney Morrissey said. "It improves public safety and strengthens the fabric of our communities if we give people who are incarcerated the tools and skills necessary so that when they eventually walk free, they stay free."