



## LOUISIANA SENATE

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### **SENATOR BISHOP SELECTED TO SERVE ON NATIONAL ‘BEYOND THE BOX’ PANEL**

District 4 State Senator Wesley Bishop will participate in a “Beyond the Box” panel discussion in Washington, D.C. to inform United States House and Senate staffers and lawmakers on state-level policies and trends relative to “banning the box.”

The panel is a collaborative effort between Prison Cells to PhD and Operation Restoration. Prisons Cells to PhD is a New Orleans based initiative aimed at providing a community where impoverished women and girls have access to basic fundamentals they need to successfully reenter society after incarceration. Similarly, Operation Restoration is a Maryland organization that provides mentoring and educational counseling to individuals returning from incarceration.

Both organizations were involved in the passage of legislation that ‘bans the box’ on college applications in their respective states. The chosen panelists also play vital roles in the movement. Senator Bishop was instrumental in the passage of *Act 276* of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session. This Louisiana law prohibits colleges and universities from inquiring about certain criminal history on their applications for admission.

“I was honored to assist in the passage of *Act 276* and I am thrilled to be a part of the national effort to ban the box at all colleges and universities,” said Senator Bishop. “Higher education is a critical component of reducing recidivism and the ban the box movement helps those who are returning from incarceration to reach their full potential and secure a better future for themselves, their families and their communities.”

Senator Bishop will join five other panelists – Stanley Andrisse, Executive Director of Prison Cells to PhD; Syrita Steib-Martin, Executive Director of Operation Restoration; Annie Freitas, Co-founder of Operation Restoration; Del. Maggie McIntosh, Maryland State Delegate; and, Del. Erik Barron, Maryland State Delegate – at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 for the discussion.

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