

[INSERT LETTERHEAD]

Please submit your letter of support via [Web Portal: https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)

(Create an account on the website and submit.)

If you have any issues, please email Jared Call: jared@nourishca.org

PLEASE SUBMIT BY TUESDAY, JUNE 25!

June ##, 2024

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 1254 (Becker), the Food for Re-entry and Ensuring Stable Homes (FRESH) Act

Dear Chair McCarty,

On behalf of Nourish California a nonprofit focused on reducing the high food insecurity rate faced by those with a history of incarceration. **We write in strong support of SB 1254 by Senator Becker.** This important bill will allow and assist incarcerated people in applying for CalFresh benefits up to 90 days before their release to better prepare them for reentry.

[Optional: Insert description of organization and why you support SB 1254]

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—called CalFresh in California —is the most effective food assistance program in the nation.¹ However, California has historically had a low ranking on the United States Department of Agriculture's statewide ranking for eligible households to enroll and participate in SNAP/CalFresh due in part to barriers to acquiring CalFresh for all applicants.² Altogether, nearly one in three eligible Californians are not connected to this 100 percent federally-funded food assistance program.

Under federal law, incarcerated individuals become ineligible to receive CalFresh benefits after 30 days of confinement. While there is already an existing re-entry process for Medi-Cal, there are no equivalent enrollment processes for CalFresh and various other supportive services.³ Food insecurity is one of the most challenging hurdles that previously incarcerated individuals face upon re-entry. While there is already an existing re-entry enrollment process for Medi-Cal, CalFresh and various other supportive services have no equivalent enrollment processes.

The FRESH Act creates this process for these programs and removes unnecessary barriers to re-entry. In doing so, it helps reduce food insecurity in California and builds upon existing work in effectively connecting individuals with state services.

¹ [CalFresh Outreach](#).

² [Realignment](#).

³ [CalAim for Re-entry](#)

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For these reasons, [Your Organion] supports SB 1254, a groundbreaking piece of legislation creating ripples of positive change. It urges your committee to pass this critical bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Signature

Name, title, Organization:

CC: Office of Senator Josh Becker