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 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12!**

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]](#footnote-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]](#footnote-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]](#footnote-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.

For these reasons, [Your Organization] 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

1. [CalFresh Outreach](https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh-outreach/about-us#:~:text=History,due%20to%20severe%20domestic%20hunger). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Realignment](https://wclp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Reducing-Hunger-Recidivism-by-Pre-Enrolling-Into-CalFresh.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [CalAim for Re-entry](https://calhps.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/CalAIM-for-Reentry-and-Justice-Involved-Adults-and-Youth-A-Policy-Implementation-Guide-V2-8-23-2022-002.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)