*Please submit your letter of support via* [*Web Portal*](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)*:* [*https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/*](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/) *(Create an account on the website and submit.)*

[DATE]

The Honorable Buffy Wicks

Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee

1021 O Street, Suite 8220

Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Chair Wicks,

On behalf of [INSERT ORGANIZATION], ***I 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.]

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—called CalFresh in California —is the largest food assistance program in the nation.[[1]](#footnote-1) However, California has historically had a low ranking on the United State’s Department of Agriculture’s statewide ranking for eligible households to enroll and participate in food stamps, due in part to barriers to acquiring CalFresh for all applicants.[[2]](#footnote-2)

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)

SB 1254 decreases barriers to re-entry, helps address issues of food insecurity in California, and builds upon existing work in connecting individuals with state services in an effective manner.

For these reasons, [INSERT ORGANIZATION]supports SB 1254 and urges your committee to pass this important bill. Please contact me at [INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE NUMBER] with any further questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

[INSERT DATE]

[INSERT TITLE]

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)