



March 26, 2024

Senator Aisha Wahab  
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 545  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Marie Alvarado Gil  
Chair, Senate Human Services Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 521  
Sacramento, CA 9581

**RE: SB 1254 – Food for Re-entry and Ensuring Stable Homes (FRESH) Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Wahab,

On behalf of All Home, I am writing in strong support of SB 1254 (Becker), which would allow and assist incarcerated people in applying for CalFresh benefits up to 90 days before their release to better prepare them for reentry. **All Home advances regional solutions to disrupt the cycles of poverty and homelessness**, and create more economic mobility for people with extremely low incomes in the Bay Area and across the state.

**Homelessness, poverty, incarceration and systemic inequity are inherently linked, and removing barriers to supportive services such as CalFresh is vital to successful reintegration and homelessness prevention.** Formerly incarcerated people are nearly ten times more likely to experience homelessness than the general public, and are also some of those facing the greatest barriers to accessing CalFresh despite their higher rates of poverty and food insecurity – in 2019, roughly 20% of formerly incarcerated people suffered from food insecurity, double the rate of the general population.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—called CalFresh in California—is the largest food assistance program in the nation. 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 assistance, due in part to barriers to acquiring CalFresh for all applicants.

Under federal law, incarcerated individuals become ineligible to receive CalFresh benefits after 30 days of confinement. While there is an existing re-entry process for Medi-Cal, there are no equivalent enrollment processes for CalFresh.

SB 1254 establishes pre-enrollment of incarcerated individuals in CalFresh, helping to reduce food insecurity upon reentry. This legislation would decrease barriers to re-entry, help to address issues of food insecurity in California, and build upon existing work in effectively connecting individuals with state services. For these reasons, we strongly support SB 1254, and respectfully urge your "Aye" vote to move this important bill forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Andrews". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "A".

Brett Andrews  
Interim Chief Executive  
All Home