



YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Use Your Voice

March 25th, 2024

Senator Skinner
California State Senate
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 950 (Skinner), Healthy Recovery and Reentry (SUPPORT)

Dear Senator Skinner:

On behalf of Youth Leadership Institute, I am writing in **SUPPORT** of **Senate Bill (SB) 950 – Healthy Recovery and Reentry**. SB 950 is a part of the Senate fentanyl package which introduced several bills to address drug addiction and specifically fentanyl addiction. SB 950 aims to reduce recidivism and drug addiction of individuals impacted by incarceration by ensuring that necessary healthcare, supportive systems, and substance use treatments are created.

yli partners with thousands of youth across the state, the majority of whom are low-income youth of color. We witness first hand the brutal impacts of our state's harmful "justice" system on their lives, and the lives of their families. We are staunch advocates for measures that support our incarcerated loved ones to return well-equipped to their families and homes.

The California Department of Rehabilitations (CDCR) launched Male Community Reentry Programs (MCRPs) and Community Correction Reentry Programs (CCRPs) in an effort to provide greater rehabilitation services for individuals in their last two years of custody. MCRPs and CCRPs have shown great strides in lowering recidivism compared to traditional prison by offering social, work, and education services as well as communal housing. Despite the efforts these programs have achieved, 60% of people in reentry are struggling with drug addiction and need additional health services.

SB 950 will help address drug addiction and further lower recidivism by helping incarcerated people pre-enroll into Medicaid/Medical, SSI, CalFresh, and other programs making them eligible to receive benefits upon release. Also, this bill will enroll MCRP and CCRP participants into food, healthcare, and other support systems based on eligibility. Finally, SB 950 will require the

Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) and CDCR to work with experts to help secure housing for incarcerated individuals prior to release. SB 950 creates a healthy pathway from release to reentry by providing necessary services to people impacted by the carceral system that they need and rightfully deserve.

It is for these reasons, Youth Leadership Institute is pleased to **SUPPORT** SB 950.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PATRICIA BARAHONA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Youth Leadership Institute