



YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Use Your Voice

June 25th, 2024

Honorable Kevin McCarty
Chair, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
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 Youth Leadership Institute, ***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.

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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—called CalFresh in California—is the largest food assistance program in the nation.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

Under federal law, incarcerated individuals become ineligible to receive CalFresh benefits after 30 days of confinement. While there is already an

¹ [CalFresh Outreach.](#)

² [Realignment.](#)

existing re-entry process for Medi-Cal, there are no equivalent enrollment processes for CalFresh, and various other supportive services.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, Youth Leadership Institute supports SB 1254 and urges your committee to pass this important bill. Please contact me at pbarahona@yli.org with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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

PATRICIA BARAHONA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Youth Leadership Institute

CC: Office of Senator Josh Becker

³ [CalAim for Re-entry](#)