**Please send a support letter – On your letter head**

**Sample Support Letter – Senate Bill 167 (Skinner)**

**Send Email To:** mark.teemer@Sen.Ca.Gov or by fax (916) 266-9350

**Send Copy To:** Melanie.Morelos@sen.ca.gov**;** jbartholow@wclp.org; ehorgin@cwda.org

**Date \_\_\_\_Please Submit by March 4**

Honorable Scott D. Wiener

Chair, Senate Human Services Committee

1020 N Street, Room 521

Sacramento, CA  95814

**RE: Support SB 167 (Skinner) – Successful Re-Entry**

Dear Chairperson Wiener:

[**Name of Your Organization**] supports Senate Bill 167 (Skinner) which enables county human services agencies to work with correctional facilities to facilitate pre-enrollment into CalFresh for jail inmates before they are released.

Current federal rules governing CalFresh make it difficult to pre-enroll inmates prior to release, due to processing timeframes and other requirements. SB 167 calls for the California Department of Social Services (DSS) to seek authority from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to pre-enroll otherwise eligible, but incarcerated, Californians into CalFresh prior to their release. Additionally, it allows for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Social Security Administration so that individuals can apply to get a replacement social security card and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) while awaiting release.

Pre-enrollment ensures individuals have immediate access to benefits that are essential for their basic needs. It also gives county human services agencies more time to process applications in advance. This practice would allow state prisons and county jails to acquire key documents, such as a social security card or government-issued I.D., that individuals need in order to apply for jobs or acquire housing. Finally, having CalFresh applications approved prior to release means these individuals can also immediately participate in its job training program if offered in their county.

Providing pre-enrollment access to these types of benefits to individuals being released will not only improve outcomes of a vulnerable population, but also improve public safety by increasing their chances of employment and financial stability and reducing their risks of reoffending.

For these reasons, [**Name of Your Organization**] supports SB 167 and respectfully requests your “Aye” vote.

Sincerely,

**Your Name and Title**

CC: Melanie Morelos, Office of Nancy Skinner, California State Senate (Author)

 Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty (Sponsor)

Cathy Senderling-McDonald, County Welfare Directors Association of California (Sponsor)