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

**Sample Support Letter – Senate Bill 708 (Skinner)**

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

**Send Copy To:** Priscilla.Quiroz@sen.ca.gov **;** jbartholow@wclp.org; csend@cwda.org

**Date \_\_\_\_Please Submit by March 28th**

Honorable Scott D. Wiener

Chair, Senator Human Services Committee

1020 N Street, Room 521

Sacramento, CA  95814

**RE: Support SB 708 (Skinner) –Fresh Start Act of 2017**

Dear Chairperson Wiener:

[**Name of Your Organization**] supports Senate Bill 708 (Skinner) which will require correctional facilities and counties to establish protocols to facilitate pre-enrollment into supportive services for people before they are released.

SB 708 calls for the California Department of Social Services (DSS) to seek authority from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to pre-enroll eligible Californians into CalFresh prior to 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 Service Agencies more time to process applications in advance. It allows 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.

Providing pre-enrollment access to these types of benefits to individuals being released will not only improve outcomes of a very 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 708 and respectfully requests your “Aye” vote.

Sincerely,

**Your Name and Title**

CC: Priscilla Quiroz, Office of Nancy Skinner, California State Senate (Author)

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

 Cathy Sanderling-McDonald, County Welfare Department Association of California (Sponsor)