



# LIFT THE BAN

SUPPORTING SUCCESS IN RE-ENTRY

FEBRUARY 2, 2015

A PRESENTATION BY:

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## CALIFORNIA'S TEAM #LIFTTHEBAN



**Coalition:** Not Just One Person or Org

**Core Leadership:** The California Hunger Action Coalition, the Alameda County Community Food Bank, St. Anthony Foundation, Drug Policy Alliance, Western Center on Law and Poverty, California Association of Food Banks, California Welfare Director's Association, San Diego Hunger Coalition, All of Us or None, Legal Services for Women With Prisoners, California Partnership, Hunger Action LA, LA Community Action Network, LA Regional Food Bank.

**Extra Lift:** Policy Link Boys & Men of Color, Raising California Together, Courage Campaign, CA's for Responsible Budget, CA Women's Foundation.

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### LIFETIME BAN ON ASSISTANCE HOW IT IMPACTS POOR CALIFORNANS

- Denies Food & \$128/Month to Adult, Childcare to Kids
- Extra Pressure on Food Banks, Rehab & Childcare
- Increased Recidivism, Makes Communities Less Safe
- Increased Time on Aid – Reduced Economic Stimulus

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No Proof it Helped Anything

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### CONTEXT: CALIFORNIA'S HIGH PRISON POPULATION & PRISON REALIGNMENT



- AB 109:** Prison Realignment of non-violent offenders to county jail.
- High Recidivism:** CA has 2<sup>nd</sup> highest Recidivism in Country.
- State In Court Over Prison Overcrowding:** Governor Brown faced court injunction to reduce prison population.
- Several Failed Attempts to Repeal:** Nearly every year since 1997, various legislators, supported by faith, drug policy & anti-hunger community tried to pass legislation to lift the ban.

**NOTE:** AB 109 was Governor Brown's proposal.



## NEW RESEARCH: ACCESS TO JOBS & BASIC NEEDS PREVENTS RECIDIVISM

**Recidivism High:** Two-thirds of those released from prison in CA will be rearrested, and one-half will be re-incarcerated, within 3 yrs of release.

**SNAP Can Reduce Recidivism:** Research on re-offending patterns among women found that state-sponsored support programs, especially services related to job training, health, education and housing that address short-term economic needs, reduce the odds of recidivism by 83 percent.

**Reducing Costly Cycle of Imprisonment:** In addition to being more humane, preventing recidivism by offering support services is costly. For every 200 inmates that are deterred from committing new crimes, up to \$2 million (General Fund) in state prison cost savings or \$7.3 million in local jail cost savings could be realized.



## LIFT THE BAN PASSED IN PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET

Bi-Cameral Public Safety Budgets Called For Lifting Ban


Law Calls for Equitable Treatment of Felony Convictions

Maintains Ban if Not Complying With Probation or Parole


Requires Drug Rehab if Required for Probation or Parole

Changes in Law How People with Prior Drug Felony Referred To

April 1, 2015




## TIMELINE FOR #LIFTTHEBAN IN 2015




- ❑ **Aug:** All County Welfare Director's Letter (ACWDL) sent advising of law change.
- ❑ **Dec:** County Letter sent w/ implementing instructions.
- ❑ **Jan 1<sup>st</sup>:** Counties instructed to broadly educate applicants through signage & 1on1 conversation.
- ❑ **Feb 18<sup>th</sup>:** Must notify all individuals banned in recipient HH of law change.
- ❑ **Feb 28<sup>th</sup>:** Must notify these HHs of **required** eligibility documents.
- ❑ **March 1<sup>st</sup>:** Must begin taking applications.
- ❑ **March 20<sup>th</sup>:** Must notify HHs of benefit changes.

**April 1, 2015 Ban Is Lifted**



## LINKS AND RESOURCES



- ❑ All County Letter for #LiftTheBan:  
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl/2014/14-100.pdf>
- ❑ Flyers for #LiftTheBan:  
<http://tinyurl.com/LiftTheBanApril2015>
- ❑ Link to Federal Legislation – Redeem Act:  
[http://www.paul.senate.gov/?p=press\\_release&id=1270](http://www.paul.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=1270)
- ❑ #HAD2015: <http://cfpa.net/hunger-action-day-2015>
- ❑ Changing Record Under Prop 47:  
<http://www.safeandjust.org/recordchange>
- ❑ New Law Center for Re-Entry Community:  
<http://www.rootandrebond.org/>



**THANK YOU!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**  
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