

**Senate Bill 950**  
Healthy Recovery and Reentry  
Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley)

**THIS BILL**

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SB 950 is aimed at breaking the cycle of drug addiction and recidivism by helping to ensure that healthcare, supportive services, and the substance use treatment on which many formerly incarcerated people rely are continued after the person's release and as they re-enter the community.

**ISSUE**

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California prisons release about 37,000 people every year. Programs designed to reduce recidivism and increase success in reentry can make the difference as to whether a person returns to prison or thrives. Research published by Stanford University has shown that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) Male Community Reentry Program (MCRP) and Community Correction Reentry Program (CCRP) for women have the best outcomes when it comes to achieving these goals.

This is because MCRPs and CCRPs offer people leaving prison with services and supports during their last two years of custody to prepare them for re-integration with their families and into their communities.

Specifically, these programs relocate incarcerated people to a community-based location, where they may serve up to the last twenty-four months of their sentences. There, MCRP and CCRP participants have access to a variety of social, work readiness and education services, as well as communal housing, all while remaining in CDCR custody. Not only do these programs cost the state less than housing a person in prison, those who participate for at least nine months are much less likely to be recidivate. The more months they stay, the more effective this program becomes.

While CDCR and MCRP program providers are proud of what has been accomplished with this new reentry strategy, there is more to do.

Approximately 60% of people in reentry struggle with a drug addiction, and need continued substance abuse treatment and other health services. Currently our MCRP and CCRP programs have limited health care options for their participants, especially options that can help ensure that a participant's addiction treatment can continue even after the participant returns home. When someone under treatment for a substance use disorder has their treatment interrupted, the potential for falling back into addiction and criminal behavior is greatly increased.

**SOLUTION**

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SB 950 will help break the cycle of drug addiction & recidivism by:

- Requiring CDCR to work with the federal government and other state departments to assist eligible incarcerated people to enroll in Medicaid/Medi-Cal, SSI, CalFresh and other programs as appropriate prior to the person's release into the community;
- Requiring the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) and CDCR to work w/ drug & alcohol recovery experts, reentry advocates, providers of supportive housing and others, to help secure housing prior to an incarcerated person's release; and
- Ensuring that those residing in MCRP, CCRP, or other re-entry facilities who are eligible are enrolled in food, healthcare and other support services to maximize support and facilitate reentry success.

**SUPPORT**

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Amity Foundation, Sponsor

**CONTACT**

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George Harris  
Office of Senator Nancy Skinner  
(916) 651-4009  
[George.Harris@Sen.Ca.Gov](mailto:George.Harris@Sen.Ca.Gov)