

Support HB566/SB124

Removing Barriers to SNAP & TANF for Returning Citizens who have Drug Felonies

These bills will repeal the ban on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for returning citizens with drug felonies *who have served their sentences*.

Under current law, justice is denied to returning citizens who have served their sentences but are permanently banned from accessing public benefits due to a drug felony on their record. **91% of people** recently released from prison **don't have reliable access to food**. Statistically, this population are from low income households and struggle to make ends meet. Because of this ban, many are unable to successfully re-enter society.

The ban disproportionately affects women & children and people of color. Women and children make up the majority of public benefits recipients. People of color are more likely to be imprisoned for drug felonies and live in poverty. As a result of the ban, children often suffer the consequences of their parents, and people of color are barred from successfully re-entering society.

Repealing the bans will:

- **Restore justice** as there is no need to add this life sentence to the time they have already served.
- **Reduce repeat offenses** committed out of the need for survival.

Nationwide, trend towards repealing ban

- Since 1996, over 40 states and D.C. have repealed or modified the bans.
 - 2015: Texas
 - 2015: Alabama
 - 2016: Georgia
 - 2016: Alaska
 - 2017: Louisiana
 - 2018: Indiana
 - 2019: Mississippi
 - 2019: West Virginia

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