



April 1, 2024

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Senate District 09
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 950 (Skinner) Reentry from incarceration: programs and benefits - Support

Dear Senator Skinner,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write in support of SB 950, which seeks to break the cycle of drug addiction and recidivism by ensuring 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.

Approximately 60% of people in reentry struggle with a drug addiction and need continued substance abuse treatment and other health services. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) Male Community Reentry Program (MCRP) and Community Correction Reentry Program (CCRP) for women have had direct impacts on reducing recidivism and increasing success in reentry. 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.

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.

To further promote the goals of these programs, SB 950 requires CDCR to work with the federal government and state departments to assist eligible incarcerated people with enrollment in Medicaid/Medi-Cal, SSI, CalFresh and other programs and, in collaboration with the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), to work with relevant experts to help secure housing prior to an incarcerated person's release.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support SB 950.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yoder', is positioned below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Chair and Members, Senate Public Safety Committee