

## 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- Since 1996, over 40 states and D.C. have repealed or modified the bans.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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