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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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March 26, 2014

Senator Loni Hancock
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Hancock:

Re: SUPPORT - SB 1029 (Hancock) CalWORKs and CalFresh eligibility

On behalf of Solano County, I am writing in **SUPPORT** of your **SB 1029** which would provide benefits to convicted felons.

This bill would allow individuals previously convicted of certain drug-related felonies who meet all other eligibility rules to receive assistance via the Cal-WORKS and CalFresh programs. Such eligibility and assistance would only continue if the individuals meet all necessary requirements, including, where applicable, compliance with conditions of probation or parole or successful completion of same.

The ban on Cal-WORKS and CalFresh assistance for certain individuals with past drug-related felonies, regardless of their subsequent efforts to improve their lives, is a major barrier to successful reentry and, consequently, a contributing factor to the state's high recidivism rates. Restoring access to Cal-WORKS and CalFresh benefits to persons with prior drug-related felony convictions will not only improve outcomes of very vulnerable families, but also improve public safety by reducing their risks of reoffending.

This bill is consistent with Solano County's 2014 State Legislative Platform in that the Board of Supervisors supports legislation to allow drug felons to access CalWORKs grants to stabilize families and assist with funding and obtaining needed mental health and substance abuse services.

For these reasons, the Board of Supervisors is pleased to register our **SUPPORT** for **SB 1029** and thanks you for introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda J. Seifert".

Linda J. Seifert, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Human Services Committee
Solano County Board of Supervisors
Birgitta E. Corsello, County Administrator, Solano County
Paul Yoder, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.