



Advancing Legal Medical Marijuana Therapeutics and Research

March 18, 2014

Honorable Loni Hancock (D-09)
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 1029 (Hancock) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hancock,

Americans for safe Access (ASA), the nation's leading medical cannabis patients' advocacy organization, is writing in support of Senate Bill 1029 (Hancock) which will provide additional tools to local probation departments, while helping County Human Services Agencies reduce hunger and hardship, improve job placement outcomes and protect child wellbeing for some of the most vulnerable low-income families they serve.

California maintains an optional lifetime ban on receiving aid through the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and CalFresh programs for people with a prior drug-related felony conviction. SB 1029 will allow individuals who meet all other eligibility rules to receive basic needs assistance, employment training and work supports through CalWORKs and CalFresh programs provided that they are complying with the conditions of their release, or have successfully completed their probation or parole.

Thousands of Californians are released from prison or jail every year on parole or probation. Unfortunately, with few or no job prospects, approximately two-thirds of those released from prison will be rearrested – and almost one-half will be re-incarcerated—within three years of their release. According to a 2011 report by Pew Center on the States, California ranks second-worst in the nation in recidivism rates, nearly 15 percentage points higher than the national average. SB 1029 will provide additional tools to county probation departments and human services agencies to improve outcomes for reentry, job placement and child wellbeing.

Legal medical cannabis patients still face state and federal prosecution, despite the legal protection offered by the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 (Proposition 215) and the Medical Marijuana Program Act (SB 420). We do not want to see any convicted patients or providers in California denied access to benefits they need as a result of their unjust prosecution.

ASA supports SB 1029 and thanks you for introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Duncan".

Don Duncan, California Director

cc: Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty (Co-Sponsor)
Libby Sanchez, County Welfare Directors Association (Co-Sponsor)

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General Information

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