



CONSENT CALENDAR
July 12, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Taplin
Subject: Support for AB-1816: Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program.

RECOMMENDATION

Send a letter of support for Assembly Bill 1816 to Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles) and state legislators representing the City of Berkeley (Skinner/Wicks).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

BACKGROUND

AB-1816 would establish a Reentry Housing and Workforce Program to be administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The program would provide competitive grant funding for housing services and employment interventions for the formerly incarcerated, including rental assistance, incentives, and access to permanent supportive housing.

According to the nonprofit Housing California, the annual cost of imprisoning an individual in California is \$100,000, while the annual cost of providing permanent supportive housing to an individual is \$25,000. 39% of people entering parole in California report housing insecurity, while 50% of the unhoused population reports a history of incarceration.¹ Recidivism is higher for unhoused parolees, while access to steady employment with good wages has been found to reduce recidivism.²

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Taplin Council District 2 510-981-7120

Attachments:

1: Letter

¹ <https://www.housingca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/AB-1816-Fact-Sheet-v1-1.pdf>

² Yu, T. (2018). Employment and Recidivism. *Evidence Based Policy Society*. Retrieved from <https://www.ebpsociety.org/blog/education/297-employment-recidivism>

Assemblymember Isaac Bryan
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

July 12, 2022

RE: Support: AB-1816: Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program.

Dear Assemblymember Bryan,

The City Council of the City of Berkeley is proud to support your bill, AB-1816, to establish a Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program under the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Support services for the adult reentry population are critical for ending cycles of poverty, violence, and disinvestment in lower-income communities of color across California. There is strong evidence that unstable housing, homelessness, and lack of employment increase recidivism, while steady employment with good wages and secure housing both reduce recidivism. Providing these services is therefore a critical step toward providing more holistic public safety for our constituents.

With the passage of AB-109 in 2011, the responsibility for many adult reentry services shifted to county jurisdictions through County Criminal Justice Realignment funding. A 2020 report on adult reentry services in Alameda County funded by Criminal Justice Realignment initiatives found that a “relatively small proportion of individuals” received these county services, and that “service expansion could reduce recidivism rates among Alameda County’s probation population going forward.” (see: https://probation.acgov.org/probation-assets/files/Reentryandpublicsafetydocs/RDA_AB109OverviewAndOutcomes_7-20.pdf)

A state program that focuses on housing security along with workforce development would greatly advance local and regional efforts to redress many systemic harms in the criminal justice system, making our communities safer and more prosperous.

Thank you for your courageous leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley City Council
2180 Milvia St
Berkeley, CA 94704

cc:

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks
Senator Nancy Skinner