



# AB 1796: Nutrition Support for Families in Recovery

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California has chosen to ban for life all people with a prior drug felony from ever receiving food stamps. AB 1796, Nutrition Support for Families in Recovery, is a common-sense, cost-effective bill that would end this ban and restore food stamp eligibility to people in need, regardless of prior convictions.

**1. This ban hurts people who have served their time, are trying to start over and are need of food assistance.**

- This ban hurts people most in need of good nutrition and a stable source of food.
- This ban takes money away from treatment centers, many of which rely on food stamps to help feed their residents, by denying food stamps to residents with prior drug related felony convictions.
- This ban hinders the recovery process. Studies have shown that good nutrition is a critical part of a successful recovery process.

**2. This ban not only hurts adults who are trying to rebuild their lives, it also hurts their children.**

- This ban harms all families who have a member with a prior drug felony conviction by significantly reducing their household food budgets.
- This ban makes it more difficult for low-income parents to provide and care for their children.

**3. This ban does not make fiscal sense.**

- Because the Food Stamp Program is federally funded, ending this ban would cost the state only a modest amount of money.
- Ending this ban would also bring new federal dollars into the state's economy.

**4. This ban is unpopular in California and nationwide.**

- This ban ignores the will of the people of California, who voted for Proposition 36 to support individuals with drug convictions to receive treatment instead of incarceration.
- 32 other states have either modified or eliminated the ban. This growing trend reflects the increasing agreement among states that this ban is unsound public policy.