



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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August 14, 2025

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
200 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 2586 The Reentry Act of 2025 – SUPPORT

Dear Representative Panetta and Representative Lofgren:

On behalf of Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 2586, the Reentry Act of 2025. This bipartisan legislation would expand access to health care, including mental health services and substance use disorder treatment, for Medicaid-eligible individuals 30 days before their release from jail or prison.

Over half of people in state prisons and two thirds of individuals in jails have substance use disorder (SUD), compared to 8.5 percent of the general population. Upon release, these individuals are uniquely vulnerable to overdose due to a reduced physiological tolerance for opioids, lack of effective addiction treatment options while incarcerated, and poor care transitions back into the community. Individuals reentering society after incarceration are 129 times more likely to die of a drug overdose in the first two weeks post-release than the general population.

Currently, federal law does not allow any form of federal health coverage for incarcerated individuals except under very limited circumstances. This creates a serious coverage gap when individuals are released, as they often have no access to health care or treatment during a stressful and dangerous time. The Reentry Act would allow Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to restart coverage for eligible incarcerated individuals up to 30 days prior to their release from a jail or prison.

We urge you to cosponsor H.R. 2586 and thank you for your continued support for adequate access to health care for all individuals.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator for California
The Honorable Adam Schiff, U.S. Senator for California



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