



POLICY ALERT

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Support HB 854 - Lift the Lifetime Ban on Food Stamps for Drug Felons

House Bill 854 by Representative Elliott Naishtat removes the lifetime ban on Food Stamps for people convicted of a drug felony. *Please urge all members of the House Human Services Committee to support HB 854.* Go to <http://www.house.state.tx.us/committees/310.htm> for contact information.

HOUSE BILL 854

- **Helps people with felony drug convictions successfully reintegrate into society**

HB 854 provides a lifeline for people making the transition from prison to mainstream society. Many people with criminal records are not "job-ready" immediately and require services such as substance abuse treatment, job training, or education before they can enter the job market. Food Stamps help ex-offenders become "job-ready," support their families, and lead productive lives.

- **Helps reduce recidivism**

The lifetime ban on Food Stamps for people convicted drug felons is counterproductive. It undermines Texas' efforts to reduce recidivism and help people with drug felony convictions reestablish themselves as productive and lawful members of our society.

- **Helps Texas children**

Denying assistance to mothers with drug convictions reduces the food available to her children. HB 854 will support these parents' efforts to care for their families and rebuild their relationships with their children.

- **Doesn't cost Texas a dime and may actually reduce state costs**

Food stamps are 100% federally funded. Texas currently spends a significant amount of its own money to incarcerate repeat offenders. Using federal Food Stamp dollars to reduce recidivism among first-time drug felons will reduce these costs to the state.

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