

## **AB 717 (Stone) Community Fact Sheet - Starting Point Reentry Act**

AB 717 will expand the in-prison CAL-ID program to ensure 100% of people released from the state prison have a chance to receive a government photo identification before they reenter our communities.

### **Why We Need to Pass AB 717**

- AB 717 will ensure that every person can receive an ID before they come home, so they have a chance to overcome reentry barriers and thrive once they return to their communities.
- AB 717 will increase the eligibility for the CAL ID program, including those serving life or long sentences. In 2019, Only 29% of people were released with IDs, leaving 71% of these individuals without identification upon return home, creating an onerous reentry process to obtain an ID.
- During typical circumstances, a photo ID often takes around six weeks to obtain, given the need to first obtain a social security card and birth certificate. The current pandemic led to months of DMV closures for processing new Cal-ID cards. Yet, people do not have weeks or months to wait for a government-issued photo ID, if they need a Covid-19 vaccine, a place to live, or a job to make ends meet.
- An ID is more vital than ever amidst the COVID-19 pandemic because it allows people to obtain healthcare and visit their primary care providers, instead of visiting local emergency rooms overburdened by the pandemic, as well as avoid crowded DMVs.
- AB 717 will help incarcerated individuals to obtain necessary identifying documents, including birth certificates and social security cards. Also, AB 717 allows incarcerated people to take the written DMV exam.
- AB 717 will uplift the dignity of formerly incarcerated people leaving prison who will now have a valid ID in hand as valued community members of California who are on the path to reentry success.

### **Personal Stories**

*“Even before COVID, the biggest challenge is documentation. People who have been gone a long time do not have an ID or documentation. In order to get a birth certificate, you have to go to the Hall of Records, pay for a birth certificate, then make an appointment to get an identification. It can be an overwhelming process,” - ARC member & Reentry Life Coach Harvey Knight.*

### **Support**

A New Way of Life (co-sponsor)  
Anti-Recidivism Coalition (co-sponsor)  
California Coalition for Women Prisoners (co-sponsor)  
Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (co-sponsor)  
Our Road Prison Project (co-sponsor)  
Root & Rebound (co-sponsor)  
San Diego County District Attorneys (co-sponsor)  
W. Haywood Burns Institute (co-sponsor)

**Contact:** Angie Parks (CCWP): [angelaparks10@icloud.com](mailto:angelaparks10@icloud.com)