



February 28, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SB 42 (Skinner) The Getting Home Safe Act – Support

Dear Senator Skinner:

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support SB 42. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 270 affiliated organizations. SB 42 corrects the problem of unsafe, late-night jail releases and requires county jails to provide appropriate and adequate resources to people upon release.

Many seniors aging in our communities do not have loved ones who can pick them up on release. California has so many communities where people must travel miles and miles to get home from county jail. This bill would ensure that people released from jail would be at appropriate times or provided a chance to remain until the time is better (up to 16 hours) or specified alternatives, such as free transportation to a location of the person's choosing within the county.

The Getting Home Safe Act would, in addition:

- Require county sheriffs to make available to the public and upon booking, the release standards, processes and schedules of the county jail
- Require that people who are being released from a long stay (30 days or more) in jail receive basic services, including at least three days safe shelter, food and at least one week's supply of any necessary medication
- Require those who are in jail or recently released to have free phone calls and access to a cell phone charging station.

Because SB 42 imposes new duties on sheriffs and county jails, the California Board of State and Community Corrections' Office of the Ombudsman would be required to accept complaints about non-compliance with the provisions of the Act and establish The Late-night Release Prevention taskforce. This taskforce would be comprised of relevant stakeholders, including formerly incarcerated women and men, who would be responsible for creating, implementing and monitoring protocols of the Getting Home Safe Act and submit an annual report on the implementation of these provisions and recommendations for any additional legislation necessary to prevent dangerous late night releases at facilities throughout California.

For these reasons, CARA supports SB 42. We look forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly
Legislative Director
415-533-5244