**Sample Support Letter – AB 277 (McCarty)**

**Put on Your Organization’s Letterhead and email to** **Cristina.Salazar@asm.ca.gov** **and** **mmendoza@antirecidivism.org**

[DATE]

The Honorable Kevin McCarty

State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: Support - Assembly Bill 277**

Dear Assemblymember Kevin McCarty:

On behalf of (Organization), I write in strong support of Assembly Bill 277 (AB 277), which will incentivize people on parole to pursue their educational goals, invest in their personal development, actively contribute to their communities, and go beyond their parole requirements.

(About your organization)

Other states have begun to reform community supervision. California must follow this lead in order to ensure better outcomes for individuals on parole and our communities by actively encouraging individuals on parole to meet their personal and educational goals and awarding their achievements.

Experts from around the country agree that parole requirements should be goal-oriented and not time-based. The Executive Session on Community Corrections, hosted by the Harvard Kennedy School, discussed at length in their Consensus Document how “America’s community corrections system must reflect and embody the normative values of the wider democracy in which they reside.”[[1]](#footnote-1) This implies that community corrections must recognize the worth of justice-involved individuals and prioritize their successful reintegration back into society.

Indeed, the Division of Adult Parole Operations of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is committed to offering “state supervised parolees the opportunity for change, encouraging and assisting them in their effort to reintegrate into the community.”[[2]](#footnote-2) Currently, CDCR provides access to education and vocational programs to incarcerated individuals and awards milestone credits upon completion, which are applied to reduce the length of one’s prison sentence. By providing similar incentives for achievements on parole, this bill will extend the credit earning opportunity for individuals on parole who remain under the jurisdiction of CDCR and advance our collective objective to encourage successful outcomes for individuals on parole.

AB 277 ensures that people on parole are encouraged to proactively engage in their communities and successfully reenter back into society. By incentivizing people on parole to continue their rehabilitation through education, self-help programs, volunteering, and staying disciplinary-free, we are promoting public safety through their success. This bill sends a message that says we want individuals on parole to succeed and we want to recognize their achievements.

For these reasons, we strongly support AB 277, and urge the legislature to pass this importance piece of legislation.

Respectfully,

Signature

Name

Title

Organization

Address

1. Executive Session on Community Corrections, *Toward an Approach to Community Corrections for the 21st Century: Consensus Document of the Executive Session on Community Corrections.* July 2017 (2). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. CDCR’s Division of Adult Parole Operations, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (Feb. 7, 2018), http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/parole. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)