



SUPPORT THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF HIV

VOTE YES FOR SB 655

(SEN. ROBERT PETERS & REP. CAROL AMMONS)

THE PROBLEM: Illinois treats HIV differently than any other communicable disease, criminalizing a whole class of people even when their conduct poses little or no risk of HIV transmission. People living with HIV should not be singled out as potential criminals, especially now that HIV is a treatable, manageable chronic condition.

THE SOLUTION: Repeal the harmful and outdated HIV criminalization law and treat HIV like any other chronic disease, using proven and effective public health strategies.

- Transmission of communicable diseases is a public health issue, not a crime.
- Repeal will lead to improvements in public health, as more people will get tested and engage in treatment without fear that their HIV-positive status would be used against them.

BACKGROUND: In Illinois, people living with HIV can be criminally prosecuted for consensual sex; needle-sharing; and donating blood, tissue, organ, and semen. HIV criminalization in Illinois stigmatizes people living with HIV by making legal behavior illegal.

Furthermore, there is no actual requirement of transmission. That means people living with HIV can face the threat of arrest, prosecution, and incarceration without any actual transmission taking place.

- **HIV criminalization laws work against public health.**
- **HIV criminalization laws increase stigma and discrimination.**
- **HIV criminalization laws do not align with current science.**
- **HIV criminalization laws do not work as intended and can be abused.**

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SUPPORTING HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS

- Agape Missions, NFP
- AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC)
- American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM)
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
- Asian Human Services
- Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC)
- CALOR, AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- Champaign Urbana Public Health District
- Chicago Abortion Fund
- Chicago Chapter of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Chicago House and Social Service Agency
- Community Behavioral Health Association (CBHA)
- Cook County Health (CCH)
- Erie Family Health Centers
- Esperanza Health Centers
- Hope Clinic for Women
- Howard Brown Health
- Janssen Infectious Diseases
- Illinois Association for Behavioral Health (IABH)
- Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA)
- Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA)
- Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center
- Mother and Child Alliance
- PCC Community Wellness
- Project Vida, Inc.
- Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago
- Resilience
- Rush University System for Health
- Sinai Infectious Disease Center

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- ACLU of Illinois
- African-American Lesbian Professionals Having A Say (A.L.P.H.A.S.)
- Angii's Angel's
- Brothers Health Collective
- Cabrini Green Legal Aid
- Center on Halstead
- Central Illinois Friends
- Chicago Chapter, Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
- Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
- Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus
- Chicago NOW
- Chicago Recovery Alliance (CRA)
- Chicago Urban League
- Citizen Action Illinois
- Community Renewal Society (CRS)
- Equality Illinois
- Evaluation, Data Integration, & Technical Assistance (EDIT) Program @ Northwestern University
- EverThrive Illinois
- Friends Who March
- Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
- Healthy Illinois
- Heartland Alliance
- Hopeful in Victory
- Housing Action Illinois
- Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Illinois Justice Project (ILJP)
- Illinois National Organization for Women
- Jolt Foundation
- La Casa Norte
- Lambda Legal
- Legal Action Chicago
- Legal Council for Health Justice (LCHJ)
- Live4Lali
- Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation
- Naper Pride
- National Association of Social Workers – Illinois Chapter
- National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health
- Peoria Proud
- Planned Parenthood of Illinois (PPIL)
- Positive Women's Network-USA (PWN-USA)
- Prairie Pride Coalition
- Pride Action Tank (a project of AIDS Foundation Chicago)
- Protect Our Care Illinois
- QC PRIDE, Inc.
- SIECUS
- SEIU Healthcare IL/IN
- She Votes Illinois
- Shriver Center on Poverty Law
- Supportive Housing Providers Association
- SWOP
- The Kennedy Forum Illinois
- The Phoenix Center
- The Porchlight Collective, SAP
- The SERO Project
- Thresholds
- TPAN
- Transformative Justice Law Project
- Uniting Pride of Champaign County
- Women's Connection (a project of AIDS Foundation Chicago)

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