



# FLOOR ALERT

## Vote AYE on SB 239

SB 239 modernizes laws that criminalize and stigmatize people living with HIV. California criminal law should take the same approach to HIV as it does to other serious communicable diseases.

Public health experts, medical professionals, HIV advocates and civil rights leaders support the reform of outdated HIV criminalization laws.

- **SB 239 reflects a science-based understanding of HIV prevention, treatment, and transmission.** Since the '80s and '90s, when HIV-criminalization laws were passed, effective treatments have been developed that dramatically lengthen and improve the quality of life for people living with HIV and eliminate the risk of transmission to others. California law should be updated to take into account these advances.
- **SB 239 updates California law so it treats people living with HIV the same as people living with other communicable diseases.** HIV is a public health issue, not a criminal justice issue, and should be treated the same in California law as other communicable diseases.
- **SB 239 promotes public health.** Criminal laws targeting HIV hurt—rather than help—public health. Research suggests that such laws may be a disincentive to testing and disclosure of one's HIV status and a barrier to people living with HIV from seeking care. These laws further isolate and increase stigma towards people living with HIV, which are significant drivers of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- **HIV-specific criminal laws in California have been found to disproportionately impact women and people of color.** While women living with HIV comprise only 13 percent of people living with HIV, they make up 43 percent of those criminalized under California's HIV-specific criminal laws. Furthermore, while about half of people living with HIV in California are Black or Latino, two thirds of people criminalized under HIV specific laws are Black or Latino.

### Vote AYE on SB 239!

ACLU of California  
 APLA Health  
 Black AIDS Institute  
 Equality California  
 Lambda Legal  
 Positive Women's Network  
 A New Path  
 A New Way of Life – Reentry Project  
 Access – Women's Health Justice  
 Act for Women and Girls  
 Adolescent Counseling Services  
 Adult Performer Advocacy Committee

AIDS Legal Referral Panel  
 AIDS Project East Bay  
 AIDS Services Foundation Orange County  
 Alliance for Boys and Men of Color  
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice  
 Asian Law Alliance  
 Asian Pacific Environmental Network  
 Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom  
 Being Alive  
 Bienestar  
 Billy DeFrank LGBT Center  
 Black Women for Wellness

Brown Boi Project  
 California Attorneys for Criminal Justice  
 California Communities United Institute  
 California IHSS Consumer Alliance  
 California Immigrant Policy Center  
 California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance  
 California Latinas for Reproductive Justice  
 California LGBT Health & Human Services Network  
 California Medical Association  
 California Pan-Ethnic Health Network  
 California Partnership  
 California Women's Law Center  
 Californians for Safety and Justice  
 Californians United for a Responsible Budget  
 Center for Excellence for Transgender Health  
 Center for Health Justice  
 Center for HIV Law & Policy  
 Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion  
 Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice  
 Child Care Law Center  
 Citizens for Choice  
 Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles  
 Consumer Attorneys of California  
 Courage Campaign  
 Centro Legal de la Raza  
 Davis Phoenix Coaliton  
 Desert AIDS Project  
 Dolores Huerta Foundation  
 Drug Policy Alliance  
 East Bay Community Law Center  
 Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation  
 Equal Justice Society  
 Equality Federation  
 Fellowship of Affirming Ministries  
 Forward Together  
 Free Speech Coalition  
 Fresno Barrios Unidos  
 Friends Committee on Legislation of California  
 Friends of Project 10  
 Gender Health Center  
 GLMA Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
 Groundspark  
 Gay-Straight Alliance Network  
 Harm Reduction Coalition  
 HIV Medication Association  
 HIVE – UCSF  
 HMM Indiana  
 Human Rights Watch  
 If/When/How  
 Immigration Equality Action Fund  
 Imperial Valley LGBT Center  
 Justice Now  
 Latino Equality Alliance  
 Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights  
 Life Group Los Angeles  
 Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce  
 Los Angeles HIV Law & Policy Project  
 Los Angeles LGBT Center  
 Merced LGBTQ Alliance  
 Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
 NARAL Pro Choice  
 National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
 National Black Justice Coalition  
 National Center for Transgender Equality  
 National Compadres Network  
 National Council of Jewish Women  
 National Day Laborer Organizing Network  
 National Health Law Program  
 National Immigration Law Center  
 NorCal Mental Health America  
 North County LGBTQ Resource Center  
 Our Family Coalition  
 Pacific Pride Foundation  
 Pangea Legal Services  
 Physicians for Reproductive Health  
 Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California  
 PolicyLink  
 Project Inform  
 The Source LGBT+ Center  
 Project Angel Food  
 Public Interest Law Project  
 Queer Life Space  
 Rainbow Community Center  
 Root & Rebound Reentry Advocates  
 Sacramento LGBT Center  
 San Diego LGBT Center  
 San Fernando Valley LGBTQ Center  
 San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
 San Francisco LGBT Center  
 San Joaquin AIDS Foundation  
 SCOPE  
 Sero Project  
 St. John's Well Child & Family Center  
 Stonewall Democratic Club  
 Sex Workers Outreach Project – Los Angeles  
 Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc.  
 TGI Justice Project  
 The LGBT Center Long Beach  
 The LGBT Center Orange County  
 The Spahr Center  
 The St. James Infirmary  
 The TransLatin@ Coalition  
 The Trevor Project  
 Trans Student Educational Resources  
 Transgender Community Coalition  
 Transgender Law Center  
 UCSF Center for Excellence for Transgender Health  
 Voices for Progress  
 Western Center on Law and Policy  
 Western Regional Advocacy Project  
 Women's Foundation of California  
 Youth Justice Coalition