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Public health experts, medical professionals, HIV advocates and civil rights leaders support the reform of outdated HIV criminalization laws.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