

SUPPORT SB 1830: REDUCING BARRIERS TO RECOVERY

- ▶ **Reclassifies the penalty for small-scale drug possession from a felony to a Class A misdemeanor.**
- ▶ **Offers behavioral health assessments and access to treatment for people who need it.**

SB 1830 (Sims) will strengthen Illinois communities by shifting towards a public health approach to reducing the harms associated with drug use – instead of the failed strategy of incarcerating people for using substances.

- ✓ **Allows people to continue living and working in their communities, while connecting them to services they may need—reinforcing the economic vitality of neighborhoods across Illinois.**

Prosecuting drug possession as a felony has resulted in tens of thousands of people from Waukegan to Cairo being limited in opportunities for employment, housing, and education. Our communities are stronger when everyone can participate.

- ✓ **Addresses racial inequities in our criminal legal system.**

Drug use is a reality in all communities, but people of color—especially Black Illinoisans—are far more likely to be arrested, convicted, and incarcerated for possessing drugs. With so many families disrupted by incarceration and the lifelong burden of a felony record, entire communities have been targeted and disrupted.

- ✓ **Refocuses our resources on Illinoisans' real priorities.**

If we utilize proven public health strategies to reduce the harms associated with drug use, we can allow our criminal legal system to focus on reducing the violence that remains too high across Illinois, and free up resources to help people access needed health services in the communities where they live.

Supporting Organizations

ACLU of Illinois	Fully Free Coalition	National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter (NASW—IL)
Adler University	Health & Medicine Policy Research Group	National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health
AIDS Foundation Chicago	Heartland Alliance	National Immigration Justice Center (NIJC)
Alliance for Safety and Justice	Illinois Alliance for Reentry & Justice	The Next Movement Committee of the Trinity United Church of Christ Prison Ministry
Americans for Prosperity—Illinois	Illinois Association for Behavioral Health	The Night Ministry
Ascend Justice	Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization (NIRCO)
Board of Health for the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District	Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY)	Peace and Justice Solutions
BPI Chicago	Illinois Justice Project	The People's Lobby
Broken No More	Illinois Prison Project	The Perfectly Flawed Foundation
Buddy's Purpose	Illinois Public Health Association	Phoenix Center
Cabrini Green Legal Aid	Illinois Public Health Institute	The Porchlight Collective, SAP
Champaign-Urbana Public Health District	Illinois Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-IL)	Restore Justice Illinois
Change Peoria	Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM)	Revolution Workshop
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation	Illinois State Bar Association	Rosecrance Health Network
Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts	Illinois State Medical Society	Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless	JOLT Harm Reduction	Students for a Sensible Drug Policy
Chicago Community Bond Fund	Lake County Sheriff's Office	Target Area Development Corporation
Chicago Recovery Alliance	Lake County State's Attorney	TASC, Inc.
Chicago Urban League	Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)	The Kennedy Forum Illinois
Clergy for a New Drug Policy	Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender	Thresholds
Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township	League of Women Voters of Illinois	Transforming Reentry Services f/k/a Men & Women in Prison Ministries
Communities United	Live4Lali	Women's Justice Institute
Cook County	Live Free Chicago	Workers Center for Racial Justice
Cook County Department of Public Health	Live Free Illinois	
Cook County Health	Mental Health America of Illinois	
Cook County State's Attorney	Mental Health Summit	
Drug Policy Alliance		
Equity and Transformation (E.A.T.)		