

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 assessment and access to treatment for people who need it.
- ▶ Creates a pathway for people living with drug convictions to move past the stigma of a felony record.

SB 1830 (Sims) will strengthen Illinois communities by elevating a public health approach to reducing the harms associated with drug use.

- ✓ Allows people arrested for drug possession 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 limited employment, housing, and education opportunities for tens of thousands of people from Waukegan to Cairo. 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. Entire neighborhoods have been adversely impacted, with so many families disrupted by incarceration and the lifelong burden of a felony record.

- ✓ Shifts resources away from the failed strategy of arrest and incarceration and 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 health services in the communities where they live.

Supporting Organizations

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