

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 elevating a public health approach to reducing the harms associated with drug use, replacing 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. Entire neighborhoods have been adversely impacted, with so many families disrupted by incarceration and the lifelong burden of a felony record.

- ✓ **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.)	Mental Health America of Illinois
Adler University	Fully Free Coalition	Mental Health Summit
AIDS Foundation Chicago	Health & Medicine Policy Research Group	National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter (NASW—IL)
Alliance for Safety and Justice	Heartland Alliance	National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health
Americans for Prosperity—Illinois	Illinois Alliance for Reentry & Justice	National Immigration Justice Center (NIJC)
Ascend Justice	Illinois Association for Behavioral Health	The Next Movement Committee of the Trinity United Church of Christ Prison Ministry
Board of Health for the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District	Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence	The Night Ministry
BPI Chicago	Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY)	Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization (NIRCO)
Broken No More	Illinois Justice Project	Peace and Justice Solutions
Buddy's Purpose	Illinois Prison Project	The People's Lobby
Cabrini Green Legal Aid	Illinois Public Health Association	The Perfectly Flawed Foundation
Champaign-Urbana Public Health District	Illinois Public Health Institute	Phoenix Center
Change Peoria	Illinois Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-IL)	The Porchlight Collective, SAP
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation	Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM)	Restore Justice Illinois
Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts	Illinois State Bar Association	Revolution Workshop
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless	Illinois State Medical Society	Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Chicago Community Bond Fund	JOLT Harm Reduction	Students for a Sensible Drug Policy
Chicago Recovery Alliance	Lake County Sheriff's Office	Target Area Development Corporation
Chicago Urban League	Lake County State's Attorney	TASC, Inc.
Clergy for a New Drug Policy	Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)	The Kennedy Forum Illinois
Communities United	Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender	Thresholds
Cook County	League of Women Voters of Illinois	Transforming Reentry Services f/k/a Men & Women in Prison Ministries
Cook County Department of Public Health	Live4Lali	Women's Justice Institute
Cook County Health	Live Free Chicago	Workers Center for Racial Justice
Cook County State's Attorney	Live Free Illinois	
Communities United		
Drug Policy Alliance		