



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	
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Not Approved	

MEMBERSHIP	
Approved	Sept. 16, 2021
Not Approved	

**ILLINOIS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION NO. 8
2021**

Support of HIV Decriminalization within State of Illinois

WHEREAS, the federal government-initiated plans to reduce HIV incidence by 90% over the next 10 years through the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative. To succeed, the nation will need to not only overcome the scientific and programmatic barriers to testing, treatment, and prevention, but also to address the legal obstacles, racial discrimination, economic disadvantage, and homophobia that under-pin many of the disparities that are prevalent in the HIV epidemic; and,

WHEREAS, HIV criminalization in Illinois stigmatizes people living with HIV (PLWH); and,

WHEREAS, PLWH previously could be criminally prosecuted under 720 ILL. COMP.STAT. 5/12-5.01 for consensual sex; needle-sharing; and donating blood, tissue, organ, and semen; and,

WHEREAS, enforcement of HIV criminalization laws fosters racial, sex-based, and socioeconomic disparities disproportionately impacting women and the Black community; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois' law exacerbates the already overwhelming social stigma that accompanies an HIV diagnosis, which experts agree is one of the biggest obstacles to ending the HIV epidemic; and,

WHEREAS, antiretroviral therapy is highly effective at decreasing morbidity and mortality, and individuals with an undetectable viral load have effectively no risk of sexual transmission of HIV; and,

WHEREAS, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV infection, to prevent HIV acquisition, is more than 99% effective at reducing the risk of sexual transmission of HIV; and,

WHEREAS, studies have shown that only about half of the individuals with HIV in states with HIV-related criminal laws know the laws exist; those who did know about them were mostly

unsure of the legal requirements, and awareness of the law was not associated with sexual behavior or disclosure of HIV status; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA), as a public health leader in Illinois, will:

1. Support public health policies, programs, and services that encourage ending the HIV epidemic through community support, institutional, and political trust, and shared goals.
2. Align with science and revising the application of these laws for the sake of people with HIV and for the public's health.
3. Call on local and state leaders to review, implement, and support signed legislation as applicable in HB 1063.

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