

# LEGISLATIVE ACTION COALITION ON PRISON HEALTH

*The Legislative Action Coalition on Prison Health is a statewide coalition of organizations supporting a package of legislation that would ensure proper healthcare, HIV/HCV prevention and education to inmates in NY prisons.*

{ **A.4204 (Gottfried)/S.1840 (Mendez)** - This legislation would require the Department of Health annually to review the policies and practices concerning HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV) care at state prisons and local jails. This would encourage DOCS and local jail authorities to utilize the expertise of DOH AIDS Institute to develop and implement HIV and HCV care policies and practices that meet community standards of care. The public reviews done by DOH would provide the prisons and jails with clear guidance on what is needed to improve care and avoid disease transmission.

**Status:** *This bill passed the Assembly on 3/31/04 by a vote of 144 to 0. The bill was delivered to the Senate Health Committee and hasn't yet moved onto a committee agenda. This bill is at the top of the priority list for the Legislative Action Coalition on Prison Health, and was part of the focus for public hearings on November 14, 2003, March 15, 2004 and April 30, 2004.*

{ **A.3692 (Gottfried) and S.3898 (Duane)** - This legislation would amend the definition of "hospital" in article 28 of the Public Health Law to include correctional health facilities. The effect of the legislation would be to give the Department of Health (DOH) oversight of local and state correctional health facilities. While prison health facilities provide patient care, they have been exempt from DOH standards and oversight. This legislation would ensure that inmates receive a uniform standard of care consistent with community standards as is required by DOH in all other state health facilities.

**Status:** *The Assembly bill passed Assembly Health Committee 15-5 on 2/25/03 and Assembly Ways and Means by a vote of 32-2 on 5/27/03. The bill was laid aside on 6/4/03, and has not yet passed the entire Assembly. The Senate bill was referred to Senate Health on 1/7/04, and has not yet moved out of committee.*

{ **A.3940A (Gottfried)/ S.2082 (Duane)** - This legislation would require every correctional facility to implement STD/HIV education and prevention programs, including the distribution of prophylactics. By implementing these programs, which have been effective in select New York State prisons and jails and in institutions in other states, New York can help stop the spread of HIV and other STDs to other inmates, their families and others with whom they come in contact.

**Status:** *This bill was amended in the Assembly Corrections Committee to also include Hepatitis C on 2/28/03 but has not yet been voted on. In the Senate the bill has been referred to Senate Corrections and will be amended to include Hepatitis C.*

{ **Correctional Health Services Corporation** - This legislation, which would be introduced for the first time in 2003, would create a public benefits corporation to provide medical and mental health services in state correctional facilities. This bill would ensure that health care in state prisons was organized and financed so that health care professionals will have the independence to provide care that meets professional and constitutional standards.

**Status:** *This bill is still in draft form and has not yet been introduced.*

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION COALITION ON PRISON HEALTH

ACT UP/NY	Legal Action Center
AIDS Center for Queens County	LOLA – Latino Organization for Liver Awareness
AIDS Treatment Data Network	Lower East Side Harm Reduction
AIDS Service Center	Lutheran Social Services Free at Last Prison Outreach
Alliance for Inmates with AIDS	Mano a Mano
Bailey House	Momentum AIDS Project
Breathing Space, Inc. - Ray Rios	National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project
Bronx HIV Care Network	New York AIDS Coalition
Center for Community Alternatives	New York Civil Liberties Union
Center for Comprehensive Care, St. Luke=s Roosevelt Hospital	NYC AIDS Housing Network
Coalition of Persons Living with Hepatitis C	Osborne Association
Correctional Association of New York	Partnership for Family Health
East NY/Brownsville HIV Care Network	The Partnership for the Homeless
End AIDS Now!	Prisoners= Rights Project - Legal Aid Society
Gay Men=s Health Crisis	Southern Tier AIDS Program
Harlem Directors= Group	Staten Island AIDS Task Force
Harm Reduction Coalition	STEPS to End Family Violence
Housing Works	The Unlock the Block Coalition
Incarcerated Mothers Program	Urban Justice Center
Iris House	VIP Community Services
Latino Health Advocacy Coalition	William F. Ryan Health Center
Latino Commission on AIDS	<b>List in Progress-March 2004</b>