



THE AIDS INSTITUTE

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THE AIDS INSTITUTE COMMENDS CONGRESSWOMAN MAXINE WATERS FOR THE STOP AIDS IN PRISONS ACT OF 2007

In 2004, the U.S. Department of Justice reported that HIV/AIDS prevalence among U.S. prisoners was three times that of the general population. HIV transmission in prisons has gone virtually unaddressed by federal lawmakers until recent years. Congresswoman Maxine Waters will introduce a bipartisan bill that includes the partnership of other senior members of the House Judiciary Committee. Current cosponsors include Representatives John Conyers (D-MI), Lamar Smith (R-TX), Robert C. Scott (D-VA), and Randy Forbes (R-VA).

The *Stop AIDS in Prisons Act of 2007* will provide routine, opt-out HIV testing to all inmates with pre and post-test counseling. All inmates who test positive for HIV/AIDS will receive comprehensive medical treatment. Another important component of the legislation is the provision that inmates may request an HIV test without being penalized for a violation of prison rules. Due to the fact that minorities are overrepresented in the prison population and are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, this bill will help to eradicate the spread of transmission among this population.

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*For more information and to become involved in AIDS advocacy work, please contact
The AIDS Institute at: (202) 835-8373, or by email at: Info@theaidsinstitute.org or www.TheAIDSInstitute.org
The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit agency that promotes action for social change
through public policy research, advocacy and education.*