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California State Senate

SENATOR
JEFF STONE, PHARM.D.
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



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BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
PUBLIC SAFETY

September 20, 2017

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Veto Request – Senate Bill 239

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you veto Senate Bill 239 (Wiener) which annuls laws sanctioning purposeful exposure to HIV.

SB 239 does not adequately support public health and wellness. If a person knows he or she has HIV, it is currently a felony to intentionally expose another person to the virus. This legislation would make it a misdemeanor to expose an innocent victim to HIV.

We all have great compassion for those infected with AIDS, but reducing criminal penalties for the willful and knowing transmission of the disease to an innocent person without the person's knowledge runs contrary to the state's responsibility to keep people safe.

Thankfully, having AIDS is no longer a death sentence. But as a pharmacist, I can personally attest to the fact that many people do not properly adhere to their drug treatment. If an AIDS patient fails to properly adhere to the virus-blocking drugs, the virus becomes active again. The risk to public health increases greatly if AIDS patients fail to take their medication.

If two individuals choose to engage in intimate relations, it seems reasonable to ensure that they each person knows about any potential risks. Loving couples generally look out for each other, and that is one of the main reasons to oppose SB 239.

I thank you for your time in reading this letter and am available to answer any questions if they arise. I can be contacted at (916) 651-4028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Stone".

Jeff Stone
Senator, 28th District