Legislation Proposed to End Criminal HIV Laws

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HIV-positive individuals are often presumed guilty and must prove themselves otherwise when it comes to laws that criminalize HIV, but that may change soon. Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D–Calif.) has proposed the Repeal HIV Discrimination Act. The legislation would require a review of all federal and state laws and policies that involve criminal cases against people living with HIV/AIDS; laws that place an additional burden on HIV-positive people and laws not consistent with scientific evidence would be changed. Regardless of whether this piece of legislation sees the light of day as law, its introduction sheds light on the dark side of HIV criminalization.

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