Advocates Seek Repeal of Iowa HIV Criminalization Law

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Iowa health care advocates are trying to repeal the state's HIV criminalization law on the grounds that it's against the public interest, The Gazette reports. Criminal transmission of HIV is a Class B felony in Iowa with a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison. Since 1998, 37 people have been charged under the statute. Of those, 26 have been convicted, with nine currently incarcerated, two on probation and one on parole. Between prison and HIV treatment expenses, the maximum sentence costs the state $1.38 million per prisoner. The Community HIV & Hepatitis Advocates of Iowa Network (CHAIN) argues that the law discourages people from getting tested for HIV or informing their partners of their HIV status.

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