



Urgent Action Alert for New Yorkers

I want to give a quick heads-up about a piece of legislation moving forward in New York.

June 4, 2024 By [Sean Strub](#)

I want to give a quick heads-up about a piece of legislation moving forward in New York. It's a proposal folks [raised the alarm about](#) with Lambda Legal, Transgender Law Center, Positive Women's Network-NY, Legal Action Center, Health and Education Alternatives for Teens (H.E.A.T.) SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, and SMART last month.

[S.7809 \(Hoylman-Sigal\)](#) will be called for a vote any day now because there's a push to get it passed before the end of New York's legislative session on Thursday, June 6. It would repeal the current legal requirement that a provider directly, verbally discuss HIV testing with a patient before ordering a test. Instead, S.7809 would allow any kind of written signage or notice, like a boilerplate sign on the wall of an emergency room to the fine print on a medical form, to be sufficient notice someone will be tested for HIV. So far, there isn't any research or data to support such a drastic change, since there isn't research showing testing people without directly notifying them or engaging them first produces better HIV health outcomes.

>> [You can read more about the bill here.](#) Thank you to Elder Antionettea Etienne, co-chair of Positive Women's Network-NY, for helping us raise awareness about the issues with nonconsensual HIV testing.

If you're in New York and would like to support, there are a few things you can do to voice your opposition to this harmful change. Lawmakers have heard [a lot](#) from medical providers who don't want to bother talking to patients about HIV testing. [Now, they need to hear from you!](#)

1. Call [Leader Stewart-Cousins](#) at (518) 455-2715 and let her know that testing people affected by HIV without their knowledge or consent is harmful. Urge her [NOT](#) to call S.7809 (Hoylman-Sigal) for a vote.

2. Call [Assemblymember Paulin](#) at (518) 455-5585, who sponsors the companion bill, and urge her to "[recall](#)" the bill. Let her know testing people for HIV without even talking with them first is bad policy and harms people living with HIV.

3. Share this email and [this op-ed](#) widely through your networks to let folks know eliminating informed consent before testing is bad HIV policy and we won't stand idly while people's rights are on the line.

