



Repeal Ineffective Sentence Enhancements RISE Act SB 136 (Wiener) 1-Year Enhancement Repeal

California has a complicated sentence-enhancement scheme that has led to exorbitant sentences and intimidated thousands of Californians into taking plea deals. Over the past decade, both the legislature and voters have created over 100 enhancements. 79.9% of prisoners in institutions operated by the California Department of Corrections Rehabilitation (CDCR) had some kind of sentence enhancement; 25.5% had three or more. By repealing sentencing enhancements for people who already served time for their conviction, California can divest from expensive and ineffective policies of mass incarceration in order to invest in our communities.

Today, in our jails & prisons over 15,000 prison prior enhancements are being served.

SB 136:

- SB 136, authored by Senator Scott Weiner, amends Penal Code 667.5, removing a sentencing enhancement that adds an additional year of incarceration for each prior prison term or felony county jail term regardless of the length.
- SB 136 will amend one of the most commonly used sentencing enhancements that adds one year for each previous prison or felony jail term, which impacted 32% of people convicted in 2017.
- SB 136 will impact Black and Latinx communities that are disproportionately impacted by sentencing enhancements.

Imbalance in the Courtroom:

- 94% of state cases end in plea bargains. The compounding of long-term sentence enhancements can force individuals to take plea deals, even when they are innocent of a crime.
- Prosecutors can threaten to use enhancements to significantly increase the punishment people would face should they exercise their right to a trial.
- SB 136 will restore balance in our courtrooms by ensuring more Californians feel empowered to take their case to trial.

For more information contact:

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Sponsors:

- ACLU of California
- California Coalition for Women Prisoners
- Californians United for a Responsible Budget
- Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
- Drug Policy Alliance
- Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
- Friends Committee on Legislation California
- Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
- Pillars of the Community
- Tides Advocacy



Support (partial)

- ACCESS Women's Health Justice
- Alameda County Public Defenders
- All Of Us Or None
- Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
- Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment
- Alliance San Diego
- American Friends Service Committee
- Anti Recidivism Coalition
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice
- Bend the Arc
- Behavioral Health Services
- Black American Political Association of California
- California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
- California Catholic Conference
- California Council of Churches IMPACT
- Californians for Safety and Justice
- California State Council of SEIU
- Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
- Center Point, Inc.
- Community Justice Action Fund
- Courage Campaign
- Equal Justice Society
- Fair Chance Project
- Harm Reduction Coalition
- Haywood Burns Institute
- Homeboy Industries
- Homie Up
- Human Impact Partners
- Impact Hub, Oakland
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center
- Indivisible Sausalito
- Indivisible CA StateStrong
- Initiate Justice
- Justice LA
- Justice Teams Network
- Law Enforcement Action Partnership
- Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
- Legal Aid at Work
- MILPA Collective
- Monterey County Office of the Public Defender
- National Association of Social Workers - California Chapter
- National Center for Youth Law
- Next Gen California
- Pangea Legal Services
- Peninsula Progressives Slate Members, AD 22
- Prison Law Office
- Public Health Justice Collective
- Riverside Temple Beth El
- San Francisco Peninsula People Power
- San Francisco Public Defender's Office
- Smart Justice California
- Stanislaus County Public Defender
- Starting Over, Inc.
- Showing Up for Racial Justice
- Tarzana Treatment Center, Inc.
- Time for Change
- Transgender Gendervariant Intersex Justice Project
- Unite the People
- Underground Scholars Initiative
- Voices for Progress
- White People 4 Black Lives
- Women's Foundation of California
- Young Women's Freedom Center
- + 12 individuals