



ST. ANN'S CORNER OF HARM REDUCTION, INC
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

S1289 (introduced by Senator Montgomery)
A10893 (introduced by Assembly Member Clark)

An act to amend the civil practice law and rules and the criminal procedure law, in relation to the use in evidence of the fact of possession of a condom.

The St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction would like to express our on-going support for **Bill S1209/A10893**. If this bill is in fact enacted it would protect many of the clients we serve in the Harm Reduction Field. Many of the clients we serve are currently in a state of fear in regards to carrying condoms while actively engaging in sex work.

As professionals in the Harm Reduction Field we realize that this type of profession is prohibited by law, however we as a society must understand that sex work in New York has always been present and will continue to be present. The question is, how do we protect sex workers and the communities we serve from harms associated with their profession? Although we may not have all the answers, we do know that by stigmatizing condoms as evidence of a crime is definitely not the way to protect these already marginalized clients. In fact it put these individuals and communities at greater risk for HIV and other STI's.

Our government has a responsibility to protect all individuals from harm. This includes those in the sex industry. By passing this bill we are standing up against the spread of HIV and STI's spread through unsafe sexual activity.

It is time that Albany stands up and allows individuals to make healthy choices without criminalization of those choices.

For the above stated reasons we respectfully request your support of this legislation.

Respectfully,
The Management and Staff of
St Ann's Corner Of Harm Reduction