

# SUPPORT HIV PEER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA PRISONS

## SAMPLE LETTER

James Gomez, Director  
Fax No. (916) 327-1988  
Dr. Nadim Khoury, Chief Medical Director  
Fax No. (916) 327-0545

Mail address: California Department of Corrections  
P.O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283

Dear Director Gomez and Dr. Khoury:

I am deeply concerned about recent actions taken by Dr. Joe Bick, CMO of the HIV Unit at CMF-Vacaville. Dr. Bick's decision to suspend the HIV/STD Peer Education Program and remove its director, Scott Cozza from the HIV Unit is alarming and potentially puts the lives of hundreds of prisoners with HIV at risk.

It is my understanding that Scott Cozza is guilty of one thing -- distributing public health information about flu shots to prisoners with HIV. This information is readily available to people at thousands of clinics, schools and HIV/AIDS community-based organizations. We believe that all public health information about HIV/AIDS should be accessible to prisoners.

Scott Cozza's work was essential not only to CMF's program but to the replication of such programs around the state. He is recognized nationally and internationally as a pioneer and expert in this field. If Scott Cozza is not allowed to continue as director of CMF's HIV/STD Peer Education Program, statewide efforts to replicate this program will certainly suffer and possibly fail.

I urge you to immediately restart the HIV/STD Peer Education Program and reinstate Scott Cozza to his well-deserved position in the HIV Unit.

Sincerely,

ccs: **Members of the AIDS Advisory Committee (Fax Nos.)**

Robert Rios, Life AIDS Lobby (916) 444-3059  
John Dunn-Mortimer, AIDS Project/LA (916) 447-5302  
Rand Martin, Assemblyman Vasconcellos' Office (916) 323-9209  
Sheila Enders, AIDS Education and Training Center (916) 734-5641  
Ken Topper, Senator Bill Lockyer's Office (916) 445-1830  
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Media Contacts  
State Assembly and Senate Members