

SUPPORT SB1886: FAIR PROBATION DRUG TESTING

Sponsor: Sen. Robert Peters

- » Facilitates waiver of drug testing fees for people in poverty.
- » Limits testing for alcohol and cannabis to appropriate cases.
- » Ensures that doctors—not courts—make treatment decisions for people on probation.

Blanket drug testing doesn't help people on probation succeed.



An [ICJIA study](#) found that two-thirds of Illinois probation departments drug test most or all of their participants, and tests cost on average \$8 per test, plus costs for transportation and time off work. This makes it harder for people to succeed.

SB 1886 will promote safety and equity with sensible adjustments to when people on probation can be tested for alcohol and cannabis.



Creates a clear process to waive drug testing fees for people in poverty.

Currently, probation fees can cause hardship and reduce success for people in poverty. This applies existing waivers in other parts of criminal law to probation fees.



Requires a connection between the crime committed and the drug and alcohol testing conditions imposed.

Judges should make individualized decisions about testing for cannabis and alcohol in relation to the crime of conviction, rather than imposing drug testing for legal substances in every case.

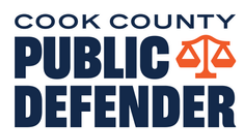


Ensures that people on probation are not denied access to medication prescribed by doctors.

People on probation deserve access to gold-standard medical care like medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder and medical cannabis. SB1886 will ensure people on probation are not prohibited from using these prescription medications.

SB 1886 does NOT prohibit testing for ILLEGAL substances.

For further information, please contact Sarah Staudt, Director of Policy at Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts, at sarahstaudt@chicagoappleseed.org or 301-807-5689.



Supporting Organizations

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Cabrini Green Legal Aid
Cannabis Equity Illinois Coalition
Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts
Cook County Justice Advisory Council
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Illinois Alliance for Reentry & Justice
Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
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