



# SYDNEY K. KAMLAGER

## REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 30



## FACT SHEET: SB 1139 – Humane Health Care

### IN BRIEF

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SB 1139 will implement a format of guided steps and tools to afford incarcerated people and their families a humane health care process.

### BACKGROUND & PROBLEM

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The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) health care delivery program's [goal](#) is to "ensure an organization design and accompanying systems to provide efficient delivery of quality health care."

Currently, a designated person can sign a CDCR medical release form to receive an incarcerated person's medical information. Unfortunately, many families report not being made aware of this process until it is [too late](#), leaving people blind to their loved ones' health care status. As a result, incarcerated people may suffer from illness and pass away alone with family members not being notified for days.

Prisons were hit particularly hard during the COVID-19 pandemic due to their very nature of confinement, leading to increased contamination. [Hundreds](#) of incarcerated people died. Many of these people died [alone](#)—no family members were present or notified to be a comfort to them in their time of need.

Unfortunately, for incarcerated people this type of treatment during medical emergencies is not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic. Incarcerated people and their loved ones have suffered this way for years. Incarcerated men and women who endure medical emergencies, and even slow deaths, suffer/pass away [alone](#) more often than not. Not only is this inhumane for the incarcerated person suffering from illness, but a terrible tragedy for their families.

### SOLUTION

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SB 1139 mandates that CDCR:

- Remove all fees for incarcerated people requesting medical records;

- Provide certain medical forms and to update them at the incarcerated person's annual review;
- Notify those listed on certain medical release forms of their incarcerated contact within 24-hours of the person experiencing a medical emergency;
- Make emergency in-person contact visits and video calls available whenever an incarcerated person is hospitalized or moved to a medical unit within the facility, and the incarcerated person is in a critical or more serious medical condition;
- When an incarcerated person is in a critical or more serious medical condition, make emergency in-person contact visits and video calls available whenever an incarcerated person is hospitalized, moved to a medical unit within the facility;
- Expedite the current medical grievance process for an incarcerated person;
- Remove the visitor clearance process (up to four visitors) when an incarcerated person is in imminent danger of passing away; and,
- Designate a phone line for people on the outside to call into an institution to give notice of medical emergencies related to family members of the incarcerated person.

SB 1139 will afford incarcerated people and their families a humane health care process infused with the dignity they and their loved ones deserve.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**Balkis Awan**

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### SUPPORT

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- Prison from the Inside Out (Sponsor)
- All of Us or None
- The Dee Hill Foundation
- Jesse's Place
- Just Advocate
- Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
- Pay It Forward Organization
- Pride in Truth