

# To cut STD rate, Calif considers condoms in prison

July 7 2013, by Don Thompson

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California lawmakers are considering a bill requiring officials to make condoms available to state prison inmates as a way of limiting the spread of HIV and other diseases.

Democratic Assemblyman Rob Bonta of Oakland says it's time to give inmates a way to practice [safe sex](#) to reduce an infection rate that experts say is much higher than in the general population.

However, state law prohibits sex between inmates, creating a conflict that concerns both supporters and opponents of the legislation.

Bonta's proposal would require officials to make [condoms](#) available in each of the state's 33 adult prisons by 2020.

If AB999 becomes law, California would be the second state to provide condoms to all [prisoners](#).

The state has tried a distribution program before on a temporary and limited basis.

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