



As a coalition of people living with hepatitis C, advocates, health educators and medical providers, we stand in solidarity with those demanding immediate hepatitis C (HCV) treatment for Mumia Abu-Jamal as well as for all people living with HCV in the Pennsylvania prison system:

**Further, we call on the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to immediately provide hepatitis C treatment and appropriate medical care to all of the more than 5400 individuals infected with hepatitis C who live in the state's prisons.**

Withholding treatment for Mr. Abu-Jamal, indeed of all prisoners, is not supported by The American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) and Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), who in their HCV Treatment Guidance are clear in who should be treated for hepatitis C:

“Treatment is recommended for all patients with chronic HCV infection, except those with short life expectancies that cannot be remediated by treating HCV, transplantation or other directed therapy.”

As the Abolitionist Law Center states, Federal district court judge Robert Mariani “held that the (PA) DOC’s hepatitis C protocol violates the Eighth Amendment by withholding the medication to incarcerated patients with chronic hepatitis C.”

Judge Mariani was forced to delay Mr. Abu-Jamal’s preliminary injunction motion as members of the DOC hepatitis C Care Committee were not named in the lawsuit, and that “if the proper defendants had been named,” he would have likely received his lifesaving treatment. As such, we urge you to make the treatment available now, rather than postpone the inevitable.

Delaying treatment until a person develops life-threatening medical complications has no place in the practice of medicine. The Pennsylvania DOC's HCV treatment policy is not supported by the medical community, and is in violation of the United States Constitution. We demand immediate HCV treatment for Mumia Abu-Jamal and all prisoners in Pennsylvania living with HCV.

Signatories:

### **Organizations**

Project Inform  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
Harm Reduction Coalition  
Drug Policy Alliance  
El Punto en la Manana  
San Francisco Drug Users Union  
San Francisco Safety and Wellness Coalition  
AIDS Institute  
CHOW Project  
Hep Free Hawaii  
HCV Advocate  
The Hepatitis C Mentor & Support Group, Inc.  
COPE: Coalition on Positive Health Empowerment

### **Individuals**

Andrew Reynolds  
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Dana Van Gorder  
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Jorge Vieto  
Orlando Chavez  
William "Bill" Buelman  
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Alan Franciscus  
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Julia Klems  
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Matthew Zielske  
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