



September 14, 2021

VIA Email to the Office of the Governor and Author

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 73 (Wiener) – Probation: eligibility: crimes relating to controlled substances –
REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to request your signature on SB 73 (Wiener), which will repeal mandatory minimum sentencing for specified non-violent drug offenses and restore judicial discretion in sentencing.

Current laws mandating mandatory minimum sentencing for all drug offenses have been shown to be ineffective in combatting drug use, sales, or crime. Evidence has also shown that these laws exacerbate existing racial disparities in our criminal legal system as well as negatively impacting those suffering from mental illness. SB 73 is a step forward in reforming our criminal laws that have disproportionately devastated Black and Brown communities. For specified offenses, judges will once again have the discretion to judge and sentence defendants as individuals, based on the merits of their case. Finally, SB 73 will help to reduce our incarcerated population, especially important in this age of Covid-19.

The League supports a criminal legal system that is just, effective, and equitable at all stages, including in sentencing. We further recognize that drug addiction and mental health are public health issues and not crimes that call for imprisonment.

For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of California strongly supports SB 73 and respectfully requests your signature. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Moon Goldberg
President