

HB 4430: SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO INCREASE ACCESS TO PrEP & PEP THROUGH COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

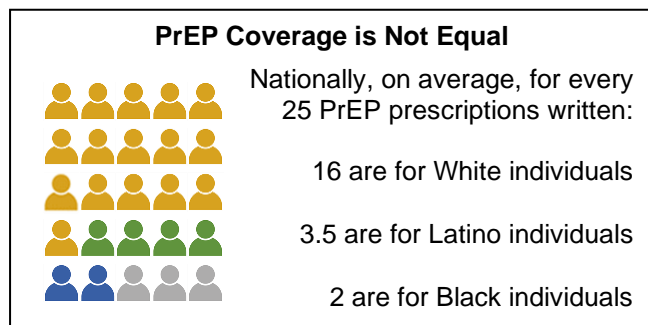
**SPONSORS: SEN. MIKE SIMMONS,
REP. KELLY CASSIDY, REP. MARGARET CROKE, REP. GREG HARRIS**

House Vote: 71-24-0

THE ISSUE: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, or PrEP, and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) are highly effective prevention methods in reducing the risk of acquiring HIV. Even with extremely successful prevention options, **Black and Latino/a/e/x communities continue to fall behind in PrEP awareness, uptake, and adherence due to several factors including stigma, LGBTQ+ discrimination, systemic racism, medical mistrust, lack of access to health care, and affordability.** According to 2019 Illinois Department of Public Health data, Black men, transgender women of color, and Black cisgender women make up nearly 40% of people living with HIV in Illinois.

If current PrEP uptake numbers persist, we will continue to see the devastating impact of HIV on communities of color and the LGBTQ+ community.

Illinois must take bold action to help end the HIV epidemic. With proper care and services like PrEP and PEP, HIV is completely preventable.



THE SOLUTION: Our legislation will:

- Allow pharmacists to dispense and administer PrEP & PEP under a standing order, to those who are at risk or who may have been exposed to HIV, without an initial visit to a doctor.
- The bill also aids pharmacists in referring individuals to ongoing preventative care and gives them the ability to connect patients to laboratories for additional tests to determine if PrEP is the most appropriate course of care. Pharmacists continue to facilitate connections to ongoing medical care and social support services.
- Allowing pharmacists to initiate PrEP and PEP offers individuals more easily accessible preventative care in a non-stigmatizing, more approachable environment.

THE BENEFITS: This bill would allow pharmacists to initiate lifesaving pre-and post-exposure prophylaxis medication and care to the communities most vulnerable to HIV. Allowing pharmacists to prescribe PrEP and PEP has multiple benefits, including:

- Community-Centered. Pharmacies are found in almost every community, many with expanded hours, making them easily accessible for patients.
- Approachable & Reduces Stigma. Pharmacists are often more approachable for people who are less inclined to go to an HIV/STI clinic. Pharmacies are perceived as neutral and non-stigmatizing environments.



By supporting this bill, Illinois is implementing the Getting to Zero Illinois Plan to reduce new cases of HIV by 90% by 2030. Awareness of and access to PrEP and PEP medication to prevent HIV acquisition are limited by who can get a prescription. This bill increases access to life-saving prevention medication, which will decrease new cases of HIV in Illinois.

BY THE NUMBERS: According to Illinois Department of Public Health data, at 2019-year end:

- 9,072 Black men were living with diagnosed HIV, representing **25% of people living with HIV in Illinois** and 4,538 cisgender Black women were living with HIV, representing **13% of people living with diagnosed HIV in Illinois.**
- In 2019, 580 individuals identified as transgender were living with diagnosed HIV in Illinois, accounting for 1.6% of all individuals living with diagnosed HIV in the state. Of this group, 348 identified as transgender women of color.
- In Illinois outside Chicago, new diagnoses among Hispanics/Latinos is up 32%. Across the state, 7,055 Hispanic/Latinx Illinoisians are living with diagnosed HIV.

THE IMPACT: All genders, ages, racial/ethnic groups, and geographic regions are affected by HIV in Illinois but not all are affected equally. **To lower HIV incidence rates, especially among Black and Latino/a/e/x Illinoisians, we must commit to connecting those who would most benefit from PrEP & PEP services to HIV preventative care.**

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