

Office of Representative Travis Nelson, Representative Cyrus Javadi, Representative Lesly Muñoz and Representative Hòa Nguyễn

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Oregon House Passes Bipartisan Bill to Expand Access to HIV Prevention

*HB* 2942 *ensures PEP and PrEP are reimbursed by the Oregon Health Plan (OHP)* 

**SALEM, Ore.** – Today, the Oregon House passed <u>House Bill 2942</u>. The bill is a bipartisan effort to expand access to lifesaving HIV prevention medications across Oregon by ensuring pharmacists are reimbursed by the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) for prescribing and dispensing PEP and PrEP. Both medications <u>can prevent HIV transmission by up to 99%</u>.

"Together, these medications are game changers in reducing exposure risk and lowering HIV rates across Oregon," said **Representative Travis Nelson (D - N & NE Portland)**, chief sponsor of the bill. "By ensuring pharmacists can be reimbursed for PEP and PrEP for all patients, this bill will improve access to critical HIV prevention tools and support public health efforts statewide."

"We have the tools to prevent HIV—but they only work if people can actually get them," said **Representative Cyrus Javadi (R - Tillamook).** "This bill makes sure that wherever there's a pharmacy, there's access to critical care, especially in places where doctors are scarce."

HB 2942 builds on 2021's <u>HB 2958</u> by closing reimbursement gaps that have left many Oregonians without access, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

"This bill is a step in the right direction to ensure equitable access to lifesaving HIV prevention medication," said **Representative Lesly Muñoz (D - Woodburn).** "It will help improve health outcomes and is a cost-effective preventative measure."

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"Every Oregonian deserves access to lifesaving HIV prevention—regardless of where they live or what barriers they face. This bill is a meaningful step toward health equity, especially for rural, LGBTQ+, and communities of color that have historically been left behind. I'm proud to support this bipartisan effort that empowers pharmacists, expands access, and prioritizes prevention over crisis," said **Representative Hòa Nguyễn (D - East Portland and Damascus)** 

House Bill 2942 now advances to the Oregon Senate.