



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

---

For Immediate Release  
Apr 27, 2021

For more information, Contact:  
Hannah Kurowski:  
Hannah.Kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov

### **Oregon House Passes Bill Expanding Access to Preventative Treatments for HIV**

*House Bill 2958 would allow pharmacists to prescribe, dispense, and administer PrEP and PEP HIV medications*

SALEM, OR—Today the Oregon House passed legislation expanding access to Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), two drugs that prevent HIV infection. [House Bill 2958](#) allows pharmacists to prescribe, dispense, and administer both PrEP and PEP, and clarifies that pharmacists have the legal authority to conduct an HIV test.

“Both PrEP and PEP are powerful tools in the effort to end the HIV epidemic,” said [Rep. Dacia Grayber](#) (D-Tigard) “However, PrEP and PEP are not nearly as accessible as they need to be for people who have been disproportionately marginalized from our healthcare system, such as LGBTQIA and BIPOC communities. With this legislation, we can save lives and take a meaningful step forward.”

This legislation was a collaborative effort, worked on by a number of stakeholders including former Rep. Margaret Doherty, the Cascade AIDS Project, and other HIV activists. “I want to thank my Chief of Staff, Devon Norden, for bringing all of these stakeholders together, and getting everyone to a place where they were happy with the bill,” said Rep. Grayber.

“When this disease first came into national focus, it was often referred to as 'gay-related immune deficiency,' or GRID,” said [Rep. Rob Nosse](#) (D-SE Portland). “Today, HIV is recognized as a disease that can be contracted by anyone, and those who are diagnosed as HIV positive can be given resources and medical support to live a long and healthy life. This bill is potentially a life-saving solution that will prevent deaths from HIV by making PrEP more accessible to all who need it.”

Currently, more than 1.1 million Americans are living with HIV and many more are at risk of HIV infection. While new HIV diagnoses have declined significantly from their peak, there is a real risk of an HIV resurgence due to several factors, including trends in injection and other drug

use, HIV-related stigma, homophobia and transphobia, and lack of access to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment.

“As highly trained professionals, pharmacists are more than capable of conducting screening and counseling, and they are well-positioned to deliver critical health services to hard-to-reach populations,” said [Rep. Rachel Prusak](#) (D-West Linn). “This bill leverages pharmacists’ accessibility to help end HIV transmissions and advance health equity while also linking communities into primary care.”

HB 2958, which passed 47-7, now moves to the Senate for consideration.

###