



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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### **House Re-Passes Legislation Expanding Access to Preventative Treatment for HIV**

*HB 2958 B will allow pharmacists to prescribe, dispense, and administer PrEP and PEP HIV medications*

SALEM, OR – Today, the Oregon House re-passed [House Bill 2958 B](#), which allows pharmacists to prescribe, dispense, and administer both Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), two drugs that prevent HIV infection. The bill also clarifies that pharmacists have the legal authority to conduct an HIV test. The bill, which [previously passed out of the House](#) with broad, bipartisan support, passed today 44-11.

“Throughout this bill’s journey through the legislative process, we heard repeatedly that pharmacists have the training necessary to administer these life-saving drugs,” said [Rep. Rob Nosse](#) (D-Southeast Portland), one of the bill’s chief sponsors. “By making PrEP and PEP more widely available, we can get these medicines into communities that have been disproportionately impacted by HIV.”

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.

“This is about reducing barriers to access for life-saving medications,” said [Rep. Dacia Grayber](#) (D-Tigard), who also chief sponsored the bill. “PrEP and PEP are both vital parts of the toolkit for ending the HIV epidemic. By empowering pharmacists to test for HIV and prescribe these medications, we make it easier for Oregonians to get the health care services they need.”

“Preventative treatments for HIV have saved countless lives, but not all communities have equal access to these drugs, and we can see the disparities in outcomes for low-income and BIPOC communities,” said [Rep. Karin Power](#) (D-Milwaukie), who co-sponsored the bill. “HB 2958 will

help to distribute these life-saving drugs more broadly, so that we can begin to close these gaps in our health care system and ensure that more people are protected.”

HB 2958 B now heads to the Governor’s desk.

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