



## **OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS**

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Oregon State Legislature

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Amanda Kraus, 503-986-1074

[Amanda.Kraus@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Amanda.Kraus@oregonlegislature.gov)

### **Oregon Senate Improves Access to Preventative HIV Treatment**

SALEM – The Oregon Senate passed House Bill 2958 today. The bill allows pharmacists to prescribe, dispense and administer pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). PreP and PEP are drugs used to prevent Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection.

“LGBTQ+ communities and BIPOC communities will especially benefit from greater access to these important preventative treatments,” said Senator Kate Lieber (D-Beaverton). “HIV can affect all people, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation. Prevention efforts benefit all of us, but especially those who have been marginalized by our health care system. Stigma around HIV remains, it’s tied to homophobia and transphobia and this bill is a useful step that will increase access to lifesaving care.”

Pharmacy prescriptions have increased access and utilization of medication. House Bill 2958 ensures pharmacists will be able to administer a 30-day supply of PreP or PeP medication and requires health insurers to reimburse the cost of the prescription, dispensation and administration – including the cost of the patient consultations.

“Increasing access means removing barriers to obtaining medication. It also means improving affordability and addressing the bias assigned to certain treatments,” said Senator Patterson (D-Salem) who chairs the Senate Committee on Health Care. “Many inequities exist in access to adequate health care; House Bill 2958 is an important step to acknowledge and address that problem and to make certain our community members get the care they deserve.”

House Bill 2958 now goes to the House of Representatives for concurrence, and then will go to the Governor’s desk for approval.

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