

My name is Geoff L'Heureux, and I am a PharmD and HIV specialist practicing in Oregon. I have been a trainer for both physicians and pharmacists in prescribing HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, and have personally been prescribing HIV PrEP per protocol in the Portland area. I support HB2958 because it expands access to a vitally important disease prevention tool, and empowers Oregon pharmacists to bring this capability to underserved and vulnerable populations. In my professional experience, HIV PrEP is safe and both the CDC and our Oregon Board of Pharmacy guidelines ensure that the pharmacists may efficiently administer PrEP, but also escalate care to a physician when appropriate. Many people who are at risk for HIV live in rural areas where there may not be a healthcare provider interested in prescribing PrEP. As we have learned with COVID-19, we have the best chance of reducing the spread of a deadly viral illness when at risk patients may easily self-identify and present for risk mitigating interventions. By having the ability to simply go to a pharmacy, receive an HIV test, and then get the rest of their labs ordered by the pharmacist and paid for by insurance, we make it easy for patients to receive this potentially life saving medication. The medications approved for HIV PrEP are shown to be well over 90% effective in preventing HIV in real world situations and have very few side effects. I look forward to seeing this bill advance and for our Oregon pharmacists to continue to lead the way in ending our HIV epidemic. Thank you.

Geoff L'Heureux, PharmD, AAHIVP