

HB2958

My name is Dane Zahner (pronouns he, him, his) and am the Southern Oregon Prevention and Harm Reduction manager. I also work with the Oregon Viral Hepatitis collective to help bring more awareness and understanding of the importance of HCV screening and connection to care.

I am in support of this bill for expanding access to PrEP. There are some missing pieces for the screening though. If someone runs an HIV test they should also run a quick HCV and Syphilis screen at the same time or request these with the blood drawers. The goal of the collective is to broaden testing so clients can understand they may have HCV, HIV or syphilis. Simple screens that can be run at the same time

Since I began in 2017 I learned about the prevalence of HCV in our clients, the state of Oregon, and the counties I work in. I started matching every test for HIV with a HCV (we also now do syphilis).

The reason is the high prevalence in Oregon and even higher along the areas I oversee.

In the last seven months we seen in Josephine a 34.9% reactive rate in HCV

In the last seven months Douglas we have seen 29.8% percent reactive rate in HCV

In Lane County the last sixth months we have seen a reactive rate of 39.2% in HCV.

The Opportunity is to also screen for HCV with a 20-minute test along with an HIV would be recommended. The same client is at risk for HCV as much as HIV. Oregon is 3rd in the nation for HCV. We find more reactive and connect them to treatment. We see over a 25% reactive rate, meaning 1 in 4, has HCV. The testing provided in this bill needs to be expanded to test for HIV , and HCV. Thank you for supporting this bill.