



February 13, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Re: Support for House Bill 2574 - PEP access

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

The Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners strongly support House Bill 2574 to make Post-HIV Exposure Prophylactic (PEP) medications more available at hospitals to save lives.

Currently, many hospitals in Oregon, especially rural ones, do not have adequate access to Post-HIV Exposure Prophylactic (PEP) medications. As a result, hospital patients and medical personnel are at increased risk of contracting HIV following an exposure. CDC states that if taken within 72 hours of a potential HIV exposure, PEP is highly effective at preventing infection. While PEP medication is typically available at Central Oregon hospitals, this is not always the case for our rural neighbors with whom we have frequent interactions. In Deschutes County, our Public Health Officer, Dr. Richard Fawcett, has seen the benefits of PEP while on duty. He has observed PEP being administered at area hospitals that has successfully prevented the transmission of HIV to a number of our local healthcare providers over the past two of decades.

We strongly urge you support House Bill 2574 to protect the lives of Oregonians! Thank you for your consideration,

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

Anthony DeBone  
Chair

Patti Adair  
Vice Chair

Phil Chang  
Commissioner

CC: Senators Lynn Findley, Tim Knopp, and Dennis Linthicum  
Representatives Vikki Breese Iverson, Jason Kropf, Emerson Levy, and E. Werner Reschke