

**2/11/2025**

**To:** House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

**Re:** House Bill 2292

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Javadi, and members of the committee,

My name is David Ramos. I am the Public Policy Manager for Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) – the oldest and largest provider of HIV services, housing, education, and advocacy in Oregon and Southwest Washington. I am here today to express strong support for House Bill 2292, which would make all HIV prevention and treatment options available for Oregonians.

Testing positive for HIV can be a life-changing experience. Thanks to advancements in medicine, however, people living with HIV can live long, healthy lives. The first step toward this is starting medication right away to suppress their viral load, which measures the amount of HIV in someone’s blood. Individuals who are HIV-positive and who take their medication as prescribed can become “undetectable” – meaning that their HIV can no longer be detected by a blood test, that the virus will not progress, *and* that they cannot transmit HIV to someone else – even if the other person is not on PrEP.

When we look at prevention, we see the immense benefits of these antiviral prescription drugs, too. When taken as prescribed, HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (otherwise known as PrEP) is 99% effective at preventing transmission of HIV during sexual intercourse – even if their partner’s viral load is not suppressed.

Today, Oregonians have access to PrEP and with no cost-sharing. This is great, but the law does allow insurance formularies to restrict coverage to only one PrEP drug. This is a barrier to access for patients whose bodies may not react positively to certain medications; and it is crucial that they have the ability to work with their providers to determine which treatment regimen is best for them and access it immediately.

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More broadly, we are also seeing that this coverage is under threat by a lawsuit that challenges the authority of the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force to mandate insurance coverage of preventative services.

This bill will allow for patients to access the right preventative method or treatment for them – ensuring that no person living with HIV will have to wait for prior authorization to start their medication or be limited to a particular medication by their insurance; regardless of what happens at the federal level.

HIV is completely preventable. And we have what we need to prevent it. Cascade AIDS Project urges your support on House Bill 2292.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

**David Ramos**

Public Policy Manager  
Cascade AIDS Project