

Submitter: Thomas Busse
On Behalf Of: Health Education AIDS Liaison - HEAL
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2942

As a former activist with ACT-UP/SF and 20 years of journalism covering fraud, waste, and abuse in the AID\$ Establishment published in major media, I strongly oppose this bill.

The mantra of the AID\$ establishment is to get as many expensive and unnecessary drugs into as many bodies as possible with a reckless disregard for whether such prescriptions are appropriate and to bypass honest healthcare. Organizations such as Cascade AID\$ are funded by Big Pharma and put corporate profits over the interest of their service population. I strongly remember my roommate dying of nevirapine poisoning in 2003, and the full extent of the nevirapine scandal was revealed in a 2006 Harper's article that was rudely criticized by the Corporate shills in the AID\$ Establishment such as the Gilead-Sciences funded lobbyists fronting as activists and at the Cascade AID\$ project.

First, I take STRONG opposition to PEP and its promotion/facilitation. PEP is NOT FDA INDICATED. Don't believe me? Take out the FDA-approved package insert. There are NO double-blinded placebo controlled trials for ANY PEP medications - EVER (well, there was one in the UK in 1996 and it failed but they never published the data and the scandal was uncovered by a documentary filmmaker working for Meditel productions named Joan Shenton). The CDC cannot officially endorse or make PEP recommendations for this reason and instead funds third party shills at UCSF to make official guidelines. PEP is NOT recommended by the US Preventative Services Task Force, and EVERY PEP prescription is off-label, meaning it should not be covered by insurance. If PEP was so wonderful, insurer's would cover it instead of having the drug industry resort to lobbying for bad bills like this to legislate a "standard of care." The idea that PEP works is a religion among the AID\$ cult, which uses "continuing education" to indoctrinate healthcare professionals into a pharmaceutical paradigm that is simply not true if you go to the medical literature. The point of this bill is to bypass basic medical education so that worry worts who had a sexual fling and have lived under the spell of AID\$ propaganda and have good insurance can run to a pharmacist and easily get a \$4000 prescription that provides NO medical benefit but raises insurance premiums for the general population to pad the bottom line of Cascade AID\$ pharmaceutical corporate funders.

[In this context, I find it hypocritical the Oregon legislature is specifically enabling an off-label indication of HIV drugs at the same time the OHA is cracking down on off-label Ivermectin]

Do pharmacists know about the Padian Study and that in 1990 175 HIV-discordant heterosexual couples were followed for 282 couple-years, and 26% failed to use condoms and consistently 47 failed to use condoms at all? Not one person became HIV positive. Do pharmacists know that according to official statistics published in the medical literature the risk of a non-infected male to become positive from his HIV positive female is in the order of 1 in 9000 contacts? From this statistic alone, one can calculate that on average a male would have to have 6000 contacts with HIV-positive females to achieve a 50% chance of becoming HIV positive. If sexual intercourse were to commence at age 20 and average three times weekly with exclusively HIV positive women, becoming HIV positive would occupy a lifetime. So, if someone who felt guilty after a fling ran to a pharmacist and said "I need PEP," they wouldn't be getting honest counseling from a pharmacist who might repeat the propaganda they heard in their high school sex-ed class.

I was especially distressed when Domestic Violence/post-rape counselors were trotted out in the previous legislative session to promote PEP. Instead of counseling victims that they shouldn't be worried based on the above-stated statistics, they became shills for Pharma. PEP drugs come with high toxicities that have been underplayed by AID\$ Inc.