



February 25, 2025

Chair Pamela Beidle
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter in Support of House Bill 0974

Dear Chair Beidle,

Gilead Sciences, Inc. (Gilead) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments in support of HB 0974. Gilead is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, and commercializes innovative medicines in areas of unmet medical need. Relevant to this submission, Gilead's therapeutic areas of focus include HIV/AIDS, liver diseases, cancer, and respiratory diseases.

Gilead supports HB 0974 as it would codify current coverage of evidence-based prevention screenings and services and gives authority to the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to issue regulations to address access to future prevention innovations for Marylanders without cost sharing. Specific to the individuals we serve, passage of HB 0974 will help ensure patients have access to highly effective medications that reduce the risk of contracting HIV known as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). PrEP is an essential tool in Maryland's efforts toward addressing the HIV epidemic.¹

We urge HGO and other members of the Maryland General Assembly to support HB 0974 to help Maryland reach the goal of preventing and ending HIV.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or if we can provide any additional information, please contact Sherri Giorgio at sherri.giorgio@gilead.com.

Sincerely,

India P Valentine
India P Valentine (Feb 24, 2025 13:46 EST)

India Valentine
VP, State Government Affairs

¹ HIV.gov. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. Using HIV Medication to Reduce Risk. Accessed from: <https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/hiv-prevention/using-hiv-medication-to-reduce-risk/pre-exposure-prophylaxis>