



**To:** Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

**Bill:** Senate Bill 828 – HIV Prevention Drugs – Dispensed by Pharmacists and Insurance Requirements

**Date:** March 2, 2021

**Position:** Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 828 – HIV Prevention Drugs – Dispensed by Pharmacists and Insurance Requirements*. The bill permits pharmacists to dispense post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV in certain circumstances.

MNA supports this legislation because there is a compelling public health need to increase access to PEP and PrEP. This bill increases access to this life saving medication by using pharmacists to “quick start” the drug regimen and then transition care to primary care providers so that it can be managed by a patient’s health care provider. The bill has well-developed safeguards to ensure that pharmacists are only dispensing these medications in the most clinically appropriate situations.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at (443) 926-4443 or [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).