



Support

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

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

March 2, 2021

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives 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.

ACNM supports this legislation as a public health initiative for the following reasons:

- **Dispensing of PEP is Time Sensitive:** To be effective in preventing HIV, an individual needs to take PEP within 72 hours of potential exposure to HIV. In some circumstances, pharmacists may be in a better position to provide PEP within this time period;
- **Pathway to Primary Care:** Pharmacists may only provide up to 60 days of PrEP if patients meet certain clinical requirements. Then, the pharmacist must transition care to a primary care provider. This arrangement will increase the number of people who obtain PrEP and who are under the care of a primary care provider.

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.