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

OPPOSE

**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Senate Finance Committee**

March 2, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 828 – HIV Prevention Drugs – Dispensing by Pharmacists and Insurance Requirements.

The Maryland Managed Care Organization Association (MMCOA), which is comprised of all nine MCOs that serve Medicaid, is committed to ensuring access to the prescription drugs and devices that our members depend on for their health. Maryland’s nine MCOs serve over 1.3 million Marylanders through the Medicaid HealthChoice program.

While we support efforts to improve member access to care, this bill may increase costs to the Health Choice program through the limitation of which drug is administered under the bill’s provisions. Specifically, language on the bottom of page 8 is very problematic as it would require us to cover the more expensive Descovy for PrEP when there is already a clinically-equivalent, lower cost alternative- Truvada- available first.

In addition, we believe the legislation presents clinical concerns for our members by eliminating the provider/patient education and evaluation that is critical, based on the patient’s medical history and current needs. We do not support elimination of prior authorization and step therapy for PrEP. Furthermore, we would also want to encourage more communication on generic equivalency as part of the testing for HepC and HIV.

At a minimum, we would encourage the adoption of the following amendment:

- (2) HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS UNDER INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE.
- (B) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION MAY NOT REQUIRE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR **ONE DRUG IN THE THERAPEUTIC CLASS:**

(1) PREEXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS FOR HIV PREVENTION
DISPENSED WITH A PRESCRIPTION;
~~(2) UP TO A 60-DAY SUPPLY OF A PREEXPOSURE
PROPHYLAXIS FOR HIV PREVENTION DISPENSED WITHOUT A
PRESCRIPTION; OR~~
(3) POSTEXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS FOR HIV PREVENTION.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose Senate Bill 828.

The MMCOA looks forward to continued collaboration with the State as we work to identify ways to improve access to affordable high-quality care for all Medicaid participants.

Please contact Jennifer Briemann, Executive Director of MMCOA, with any questions regarding this testimony at jbriemann@marylandmco.org.