



Support

Senate Bill 355 – HIV Prevention Drugs - Prescribing and Dispensing by Pharmacists and Insurance Requirements

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 10, 2022

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives supports *Senate Bill 355 – HIV Prevention Drugs - Prescribing and Dispensing 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.
- **Improved Insurance Coverage:** Federal law requires insurance companies cover PrEP with no cost share. This bill ensures that the ancillary services patients need as part of being on PrEP are also covered.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Scott Tiffin at (443) 350-1325 or stiffin@policypartners.net.