



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill:	Senate Bill 246 – Public Health - Nonoccupational Postexposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) Standing Order Program - Establishment
Hearing Date:	January 30, 2024
Position:	Support

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 246 – Public Health - Nonoccupational Postexposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) Standing Order Program - Establishment*. This bill establishes the nPEP Standing Order Program to authorize pharmacists and health care providers to prescribe or dispense nPEP.

nPEP is a short-term treatment that must be started as soon as possible after high-risk non-occupational exposure to an infectious agent, such as HIV. Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers, we regularly serve those with heightened risk of contracting HIV regardless of ability to pay, making the MCHS network potential sites for nPEP delivery. Standing orders are regularly used by health care providers to streamline workflow and effectively increase patient access to healthcare. Passage of House Bill 127 will provide our staff a much needed resource for patients to gain access to this time-sensitive treatment.

According to the CDC, there were nearly 800 people newly infected with HIV in Maryland in 2021.ⁱ We ask for a favorable report on this legislation, as it will provide Maryland with another public health tool to lower HIV rates. If we can be helpful in any way, please let us know by contacting Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/statistics.html>