



February 21, 2025

Chair Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
House Health & Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter in Support of House Bill 0974

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of HGO:

Gilead Sciences, Inc. (Gilead) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments in support of HB 0974. Gilead is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, and commercializes innovative medicines in areas of unmet medical need. Relevant to this submission, Gilead's therapeutic areas of focus include HIV/AIDS, liver diseases, cancer, and respiratory diseases.

Gilead supports HB 0974 as it would codify current coverage of evidence-based prevention screenings and services and gives authority to the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to issue regulations to address access to future prevention innovations for Marylanders without cost sharing. Specific to the individuals we serve, passage of HB 0974 will help ensure patients have access to highly effective medications that reduce the risk of contracting HIV known as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). PrEP is an essential tool in Maryland's efforts toward addressing the HIV epidemic.<sup>1</sup>

We urge HGO and other members of the Maryland General Assembly to support HB 0974 to help Maryland reach the goal of preventing and ending HIV.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or if we can provide any additional information, please contact Sherri Giorgio at [sherri.giorgio@gilead.com](mailto:sherri.giorgio@gilead.com).

Sincerely,

*India P Valentine*  
[India P Valentine \(Feb 24, 2025 13:18 EST\)](#)

India Valentine  
VP, State Government Affairs

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<sup>1</sup> HIV.gov. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. Using HIV Medication to Reduce Risk. Accessed from: <https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/hiv-prevention/using-hiv-medication-to-reduce-risk/pre-exposure-prophylaxis>