

HB 1114: HIV Prevention Drugs - Prescribing, Dispensing, and Insurance Coverage:
Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Health Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE HB 1114** during committee consideration or floor votes.

While increasing access to HIV prevention is a worthy goal, **this bill represents an inappropriate and risky expansion of pharmacist scope of practice. Pharmacists are not trained to the same level as physicians** to conduct comprehensive medical evaluations, assess full patient histories (including kidney/liver function, drug interactions, baseline HIV/hepatitis status, or behavioral risk factors), or provide ongoing monitoring for potential side effects and adherence—tasks critical for safe and effective use of PrEP and PEP. **Allowing pharmacists to prescribe these medications independently bypasses the physician-patient relationship, fragments care, and could lead to missed contraindications, inadequate follow-up testing, or inappropriate prescribing.**

Mandating zero-cost coverage for pharmacist-prescribed PrEP/PEP also imposes significant unfunded costs on insurers and employers, likely driving up premiums for Maryland families and businesses without sufficient evidence that pharmacist-led prescribing improves outcomes over current physician-managed models. Existing access through clinics, physicians, and public health programs already provides robust pathways for HIV prevention; further expanding prescribing authority to non-physicians is unnecessary and prioritizes convenience over comprehensive medical oversight.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against HB 1114**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns regarding this important health care and patient safety matter.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals