

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1114

HIV Prevention Drugs – Prescribing, Dispensing, and Insurance Coverage
Hearing of the House Health Committee
March 4, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee, La Clínica del Pueblo is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in strong support of HB 1114- HIV Prevention Drugs – Prescribing, Dispensing, and Insurance Coverage.**

La Clínica is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) providing comprehensive healthcare and community services. While our services began in the District of Columbia in 1983, our patient population is now mostly Prince George's County residents. We operate a primary care clinic with integrated behavioral health services in Hyattsville, Maryland. HIV continues to disproportionately impact Latino communities and residents of Prince George's County. At 1,025 cases per 100,000 people 13 and older, prevalence in the county is 2.6 times higher than the national average¹. Although highly effective biomedical prevention tools exist, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), access remains uneven, particularly for racial and ethnic minority populations and for uninsured and underinsured individuals, further exacerbating health inequities.

HIV Testing, Outreach & Care Continuum at La Clínica del Pueblo

In 2025, La Clínica conducted 3,132 HIV tests, reaching 2,461 individuals through both clinic-based services and community outreach². We provide integrated HIV prevention services, including same-day testing, risk assessment, and PrEP navigation. For individuals newly diagnosed with HIV, we achieved 100% linkage to care within 30 days – surpassing national benchmarks³. Despite this demonstrated capacity, significant gaps persist in access to HIV prevention services for Latino residents.

Pharmacist prescribing of PrEP

By authorizing pharmacists to prescribe and dispense, this bill would reduce key barriers to PrEP for Marylanders. A 2025 study found that allowing pharmacists to prescribe PrEP without a time limit is associated with an increase in PrEP uptake. In contrast, allowing pharmacists to prescribe only for a limited duration was not associated with increased PrEP uptake⁴. As Maryland and the nation face severe primary care shortages, pharmacist prescribing could

¹ County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Maryland: Prince George's County. Accessed February 26, 2026

² La Clínica Del Pueblo. (2025). Uniform Data System Report. In 2025, La Clínica reported 3,132 HIV tests for 2,461 unique patients.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National HIV Prevention and Care Objectives for 2025. Accessed February 26, 2026.

⁴ Le, T., & Kelly, T. (2025). State policies on pharmacist-initiated PrEP and PrEP usage. *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association* : *JAPhA*, 65(5), 102415. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.japh.2025.102415>

serve as a key access point for PrEP. Prince George's County in particular is facing a critical shortage of primary care physicians⁵.

Barriers to Accessing PrEP for Insured Individuals

Among insured individuals, prior authorization requirements can lead to delays in care or abandonment of medically necessary therapies. Our teams work hard to reduce barriers to PrEP, but administrative requirements including prior authorization and step requirements are burdensome, time-intensive, and often delay care. By reducing these barriers and facilitating rapid PrEP initiation, HB 1114 would help ensure patients receive timely HIV prevention, reducing the risk of HIV acquisition.

Barriers to Accessing PrEP for Uninsured Individuals

High rates of uninsurance also drive inequities in HIV. Among Maryland residents ages 0–64, 23.6% of Latino individuals are uninsured⁶. At La Clínica, 71% of Maryland patients we served in 2025 were uninsured⁷. For uninsured patients, our care teams assist patients with drug manufacturer assistance programs for PrEP. However, these often involve significant administrative burden similar to prior authorization processes.

Opportunity to Strengthen HIV Prevention in Maryland

HB 1114 presents an opportunity to strengthen Maryland's HIV prevention infrastructure by supporting care providers that are already reaching communities most impacted by HIV. We are positioned to immediately scale:

- Culturally and linguistically appropriate patient navigation
- Rapid PrEP initiation
- Ongoing adherence support

The infrastructure exists. What is needed is stable and predictable support to expand capacity and reduce gaps in PrEP access. HB 1114 would support FQHCs like La Clínica in providing essential HIV prevention services. Supporting the work of high-performing, trusted clinics is a winning and cost-effective HIV prevention strategy. Preventing new HIV infections not only improves health outcomes—it strengthens public health across the state.

La Clínica del Pueblo respectfully urges this Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1114. Thank you for your consideration.

⁵ ASSESSING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL NEEDS AND 10+ YEAR INVESTMENT STRATEGY Prince George's County, Maryland. [Prince George's County Healthcare and Social Needs Assessment + Investment Strategy Final Report-compressed.pdf](#). Accessed February 28, 2025.

⁶ Kaiser Family Foundation. People 0–64 Uninsured Rate by Race/Ethnicity. KFF. Published 2024. Accessed February 26, 2026.

⁷ La Clínica Del Pueblo. (2025). Uniform Data System Report. In 2025, La Clínica saw 3,956 Maryland resident patients, of which 2,790 were uninsured (70.5%).