



MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Deb Patterson, Chair
Senator Tim Knopp, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Courtni Dresser, Director of Government Relations

Date: May 6, 2021

Re: Support HB 2958

The Oregon Medical Association, representing 8,000 physician and physician assistant members, supports HB 2958. We believe that increased access to pre-exposure prophylactic antiretroviral therapy (PREP) and post-exposure prophylactic antiretroviral therapy (PEP) is important to reducing transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Allowing pharmacists to provide PREP and PEP without a prescription, which is within the scope of practice of licensed Oregon pharmacists, to an individual who has potentially been exposed to HIV will reduce the rate of HIV transmission. PREP and PEP both require administration fairly soon after potential exposure and accessing a medical provider to be screened and obtain results may result in the exposed individual missing out on the window of opportunity to benefit from PREP and PEP. Vulnerable populations who are at higher risk for HIV and also may already have difficulty accessing medical care are most impacted.

HB 2958 does not replace the importance and value of screening, education and medical care. Similar to Plan B for emergency pregnancy prevention, PREP and PEP are tools to help reduce HIV transmission. This is an ongoing public health issues and the Oregon Medical Association is pleased to put forward our support of HB 2958.