

Lori Stegmann
Multnomah County Commissioner
Representing East County, District 4



3/25/2021

House Committee on Healthcare
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chairs Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and members of the committee,

I am writing today in support of HB 2958, which would greatly increase access to lifesaving PrEP and PEP to members of my community who are HIV Positive.

This bill is innovative, and is a bold policy proposal that is critically needed to end the HIV epidemic and eliminate the health disparities for those who are diagnosed with HIV. The CDC estimates that 44% of those who are diagnosed with HIV who could benefit from PrEP are Black and 25% are Latinx, but less than 1% of those prescribed PrEP are from these communities. If current HIV diagnoses rates continue, one in two Black gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetime.

PrEP and PEP are powerful tools to fight HIV, and making it easier to access, especially during a pandemic that requires us to reduce our trips outside the home, is a critical component for a healthy community.

I believe that HB 2958 will break down unnecessary barriers to receiving critical care, and help our HIV community thrive. I hope I can count on your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Stegmann".

Commissioner Lori Stegmann, Multnomah County District 4