



TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare
FROM: Todd Addams, Interim Executive Director, Basic Rights Oregon
DATE: 2/14/2023
RE: Support for HB 2574

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Committee Members,

I'm writing on behalf of Basic Rights Oregon to urge you to vote YES to advance House Bill 2574. As the state's LGBTQ2SIA+ advocacy organization, Basic Rights Oregon applauds this legislation which will expand access to effective HIV-prevention treatment.

HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is a combination of medications that can significantly lower an individual's risk of HIV infection if taken within 72 hours of exposure. PEP is proven to work, and has public health benefits for all Oregonians—but it's often inaccessible and unaffordable within the crucial 72-hour window, especially in rural areas.

HB 2574 will close gaps in access by requiring Oregon hospitals to stock and prescribe at least a five-day supply of PEP to emergency room patients who need PEP, including those who have been sexually assaulted.

HB 2574 will save lives. It will also be especially beneficial for Oregonians at increased risk of contracting HIV. That includes members of the LGBTQ2SIA+ community, and particularly Black, Latinx, and Indigenous folks.

Throughout the HIV/AIDS crisis of the 1980s and 90s, the United States government turned a blind eye to the suffering of patients, and the wider pain of the LGBTQ2SIA+ community. Medicine, public understanding of HIV/AIDS, and acceptance of LGBTQ2SIA+ people have come a long way since those days. But social progress and medical advancements aren't worth much alone if they aren't accessible to the people who most need them.

With HB 2574, this Committee has an opportunity to connect at-risk Oregonians to potentially life-saving medication. We urge you to vote YES on HB 2574.

Thank you,

Todd Addams
Interim Executive Director, Basic Rights Oregon

