



February 14, 2023

*Delivered orally*

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My name is Jonathan Frochtz waj; I'm the Public Policy & Grants Manager for Cascade AIDS Project, or CAP. CAP is the oldest and largest provider of HIV services in Oregon, and we are the organization contracted by Oregon Health Authority to provide PEP navigation services in the Portland metro area. In other words, when someone in Portland has trouble getting PEP, we are the people they're supposed to call.

This role gives CAP a front-row seat to the many different barriers people run into when they're trying to access PEP, from healthcare providers who aren't familiar with the regimen, to pharmacies that don't stock PEP medications, to insurers that require high co-pays for the drugs. As my fellow witnesses will testify, Oregonians who have already experienced trauma, ranging from a needle stick at work to a sexual assault, are being forced to race through a medical maze to obtain this emergency medication, especially in rural areas. We need to do better—and we can.

House Bill 2574 would greatly reduce, if not eliminate, the barriers to PEP in Oregon. This legislation was developed based on input from those who work closest with people needing PEP, including PEP navigators and sexual-assault survivor advocates. In addition, we have made significant changes to the measure based on feedback from Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Association of Hospitals & Health Systems. For your information, a soon-to-be-posted amendment will clarify that hospitals may dispense *more* than five days' worth of PEP medications (up to and including the full, 28-day regimen), and that insurers are required to cover the *full* regimen without cost-sharing, not just a five-day supply.

I urge you to support this community-expert-designed policy solution. If you have any questions about the legislation, please consider me a resource. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Jonathan Frochtz waj  
*Public Policy & Grants Manager, Cascade AIDS Project*