



February 14, 2023

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

From: Emerson Hamlin, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for HB 2574

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwin, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2574 on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association. ONA is a nurses union and professional association representing over 15,000 health care workers and providers, including registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, and allied health workers. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health care, and county health departments across Oregon.

Our nurses believe that everyone deserves to get the healthcare they need, when they need it. Post-exposure prophylaxis is no exception: PEP is an incredibly valuable tool to prevent HIV, as it is highly effective at preventing infection when taken within 72 hours of a potential HIV exposure. Sadly, individuals seeking PEP have found that urgent care facilities, emergency departments, and hospitals do not have PEP on hand. Similarly, pharmacies often need 3-5 business days to order PEP, a timeframe that is too long after the incident of exposure to be valuable. This lack of access to a medication that prevents the development of chronic, potentially life-threatening illness is unacceptable.

House Bill 2574 ensures access to PEP by requiring all Oregon hospitals to prescribe and dispense a five-day supply. Rural hospitals, who often face added barriers, will be provided PEP by OHA. This bill is valuable in ensuring that everyone who need care can get the services they need, allowing people to protect themselves and their communities. ONA urges a yes vote on HB 2574. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emerson Hamlin
Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association