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LD 1687

Dear Maine Lawmakers -

Expanding access to HIV prevention in community pharmacies is an innovative and effective way to reduce new HIV transmissions in Maine. However making it possible for pharmacists to prescribe PrEP and PEP is only half of the equation. We have to have a mechanism to make these services reimbursable, or there will never be the business case for pharmacies to implement these services.

Patients need choices in accessing services that have become complicated by HIV stigma. Pharmacists are highly trusted in their communities. Expanding access to HIV prevention services at pharmacies could significantly increase capacity to reach communities who need it most.

Maine is currently responding to an HIV outbreak in Bangor and critical HIV prevention programs are being eliminated at the federal level. We need as many tools as possible to reduce barriers and increase access to prevention and care in Maine and LD 1687 does this by broadening HIV prevention medication coverage and building capacity at pharmacies by compensating for their services.

Please finish the job you started by increasing access to these services in pharmacies and make this critical work reimbursable. This will be so effective at helping Mainers, as well as offering an innovative model for other states to follow.

Thank you