

Daniel Chapman
Richmond
LD 1687

Testimony of Daniel Chapman

In Support of LD 1687 – An Act to Clarify and Increase Access to HIV Prevention Medications

Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and Honorable Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Daniel Chapman and I am a resident of Richmond, and a person living with HIV/AIDS. I am writing in support of LD 1687, legislation that expands access to HIV prevention.

I was diagnosed a few years before PEP and PrEP were made available to the community. The process for obtaining an HIV test required taking time off from work and scheduling an appointment at one of the planned parenthoods, community specific clinic, or, in my case, a public health clinic. I have been fortunate to receive excellent clinical and support services funded by the Ryan White Program including early linkage to care. That I am alive today and countless individuals remain virus free are testimony that the efforts to expand access to education, PEP/PrEP, and early treatment as prophylaxis work. Unfortunately, healthcare operations, like the clinic where I was diagnosed, face uncertain federal funding streams today. This, combined with an already burdened rural healthcare system, will mean fewer Mainers have access to these life saving services. It is my understanding that passing LD1687 will provide the reimbursement for certain pharmacist services and coverage for long lasting injectables necessary to implement and encourage widespread uptake of the law passed in 2021 by pharmacists. I therefore urge you to support LD 1687 as a means to increase access to the critical prevention and care services crucial to saving lives and ending the HIV Epidemic.

Sincerely,
Daniel Chapman