



MAINE PHARMACY
ASSOCIATION

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April 8, 2021

The Honorable Heather Sanborn, Chair
The Honorable Denise Tepler, Chair
The Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Dear Senators and Representatives,

My name is Kenneth McCall. I'm a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I'm a past president of Maine Pharmacy Association and I've been a licensed pharmacist for 25 years. On behalf of the Maine Pharmacy Association, I am writing in support of LD 1115, "An Act To Improve Access to HIV Prevention Medications."

The goal of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is to prevent people from getting HIV. The National HIV/AIDS strategy for the United States¹ recommends "*Full access to comprehensive PrEP services for those for whom it is appropriate and desired.*" Pharmacists can support the national goal to end HIV transmission and increase both PrEP and PEP use. Pharmacists could be valuable health care partners in this effort given that they are accessible and they have the medication on hand.

Other states have expanded access to PrEP and PEP by utilizing pharmacists. New York passed a law in 2017 which permits pharmacists to initiate 7 days of PEP.² In 2019, California passed SB 159, which allows pharmacists to initiate up to 60 days of PrEP and a course of PEP.³ Both bills require pharmacists to transfer care to a medical provider.

As outlined in LD 1115, reasonable requirements would need to be established by the Board of Pharmacy in order to ensure best practices and patient safety. Not all pharmacists or pharmacies would meet the requirements established by the Board to utilize a standing order or protocol for furnishing PrEP or PEP. However, participating pharmacies who meet all of the board criteria could perhaps be listed as a service provider at PrEP207.org and may increase access in underserved communities.

Maine Pharmacy Association (MPA) is committed to the professional development and continuing education of pharmacists. If LD 1115 were passed, MPA would make PrEP and PEP training a high priority for pharmacists.

LD 1115 is smart public health policy that can increase access to PrEP and PEP for appropriate persons and thereby reduce HIV transmission. For the reasons above, I ask for your support of LD 1115 and a strong 'ought to pass' from the committee. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Kenneth L. McCall III, BSPharm, PharmD, BCGP, FAPhA, RPh
Past-President | Maine Pharmacy Association

1. NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY: UPDATED TO 2020. FEDERAL ACTION PLAN. Available at: <https://www.hiv.gov/sites/default/files/nhas-2020-action-plan.pdf>
2. New York Board of Pharmacy. The licensed pharmacist role in initiating HIV post-exposure prophylaxis. https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/pep/docs/pharmacists_role.pdf Accessed April 7, 2021.
3. Zraick K, Garcia SE. California makes HIV prevention drugs available without a prescription. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/09/us/california-hiv-drugs-prep.html>. Accessed April 7, 2021.