



Proposed Amendment to H.611 - Codifying Access to PrEP and PEP
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April 13, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comment in support of codifying insurance coverage and prescribing access for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) within H.611. These lifesaving medications are highly effective tools for reducing a survivor's risk of contracting HIV after sexual assault.

With recent federal rollbacks threatening the future of HIV prevention strategies, it is critical for states to safeguard access.

Following a sexual assault, survivors can receive specialized, trauma-informed medical care from forensic nurses, also known as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs). These clinicians administer emergency care, collect and document forensic evidence, and provide referrals for follow-up services. Vermont's 90+ forensic nurses complete approximately 400 exams in 16 hospitals each year. PEP is consistently offered to patients when clinically indicated.

For survivors who face ongoing risk – whether due to an abusive partner, sex trafficking, or other forms of victimization – PrEP offers an essential tool for long-term protection. Ensuring insurance coverage and prescribing access for PrEP improves survivors' ability to proactively safeguard their health.

We respectfully request that the committee support the amendment related to PrEP and PEP as proposed by Vermont CARES, AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, and HIV/HCV Resource Center. Doing so will preserve survivors' access to lifesaving healthcare and affirm the state's commitment to their safety and well-being.