

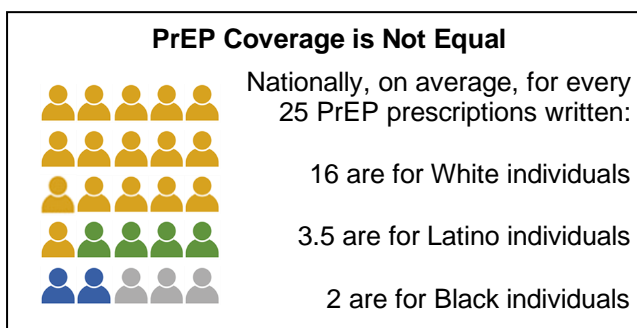
# HB 4430/SB 3209: SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO INCREASE ACCESS TO PrEP & PEP THROUGH COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

**SPONSORS: REP. KELLY CASSIDY, REP. MARGARET CROKE, REP. GREG HARRIS, SEN. MIKE SIMMONS**

**THE ISSUE:** Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, or PrEP, and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) are highly effective prevention methods in reducing the risk of acquiring HIV. Even with extremely successful prevention options, **Black and Latino/a/e/x communities continue to fall behind in PrEP awareness, uptake, and adherence due to several factors including stigma, LGBTQ+ discrimination, systemic racism, medical mistrust, lack of access to health care, and affordability.** According to 2019 Illinois Department of Public Health data, Black men, transgender women of color, and Black cisgender women make up nearly 40% of people living with HIV in Illinois.

If current PrEP uptake numbers persist, we will continue to see the devastating impact of HIV on communities of color and the LGBTQ+ community.

**Illinois must take bold action to help end the HIV epidemic. With proper care and services like PrEP and PEP, HIV is completely preventable.**

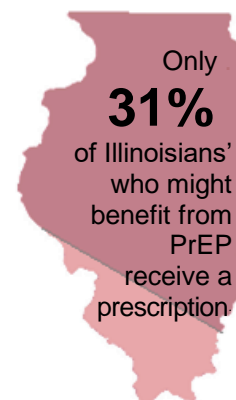


**THE SOLUTION:** Our proposal will:

- Allow pharmacists to prescribe, dispense, and administer HIV prevention drugs — including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to people at risk and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for people who may have been recently exposed to HIV — without a prescription from a provider. Pharmacists continue to facilitate connections to ongoing medical care and social support services.
- Allow pharmacists to order and conduct laboratory tests to determine if PrEP is the most appropriate course of care.

**THE BENEFITS:** This bill would allow pharmacists to initiate lifesaving pre-and post-exposure prophylaxis medication and care to the communities most vulnerable to HIV. Allowing pharmacists to prescribe PrEP and PEP has multiple benefits, including:

- Community-Centered. Pharmacies are found in almost every community, many with expanded hours, making them easily accessible for patients.
- Approachable & Reduces Stigma. Pharmacists are often more approachable for people who are less inclined to go to an HIV/STI clinic. Pharmacies are perceived as neutral and non-stigmatizing environments.



**By supporting this bill, Illinois is implementing the Getting to Zero Illinois Plan to reduce new cases of HIV by 90% by 2030. Awareness of and access to PrEP and PEP medication to prevent HIV acquisition are limited by who can get a prescription. This bill increases access to life-saving prevention medication, which will decrease new cases of HIV in Illinois.**

**BY THE NUMBERS:** According to Illinois Department of Public Health data, at 2019-year end:

- 9,072 Black men were living with diagnosed HIV, representing **25% of people living with HIV in Illinois** and 4,538 cisgender Black women were living with HIV, representing **13% of people living with diagnosed HIV in Illinois.**
- In 2019, 580 individuals identified as transgender were living with diagnosed HIV in Illinois, accounting for 1.6% of all individuals living with diagnosed HIV in the state. Of this group, 348 identified as transgender women of color.
- In Illinois outside Chicago, new diagnoses among Hispanics/Latinos is up 32%. Across the state, 7,055 Hispanic/Latinx Illinoisians are living with diagnosed HIV.

**THE IMPACT:** All genders, ages, racial/ethnic groups, and geographic regions are affected by HIV in Illinois but not all are affected equally. **To lower HIV incidence rates, especially among Black and Latino/a/e/x Illinoisians, we must commit to connecting those who would most benefit from PrEP & PEP services to HIV preventative care.**

**Supported By:**



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