

HB 2584: Open & Unrestricted Access to HIV Prevention & Treatment Medications



State Representative Kelly Cassidy | State Senator Sara Feigenholtz

The American Academy of Family Physicians are among those who contend that prior authorizations “can worsen health disparities and create barriers to care for medically underserved patients, patients of color, LGBTQ+ patients, patients in rural areas, and those at risk for poor health outcomes.”

Background

Protecting access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) and HIV preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in commercial plans is an essential safeguard for people living with and vulnerable to HIV. Access to these medications is fundamental to achieving the clinical objectives outlined in Goals 3 and 5 of the Getting to Zero Illinois (GTZ-IL) Plan 2.0, which aims to end the HIV epidemic statewide.¹ However, health insurers or payers often impose barriers like Prior Authorizations (PAs), which restrict access by requiring patients to meet additional criteria before receiving their prescribed medications.

The Impact

Prior Authorizations (PAs) affect access to care. High rates of prior authorizations (PAs) could prevent HIV preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) access and uptake in areas that have high rates of the disease, according to results of a study published in JAMA Network Open.²

Insurance company PAs remove clinical decision making from providers and patients. This can be particularly challenging for people living with HIV because it can lead to lower rates of medication adherence and viral suppression, and increased likelihood of complications, drug resistance, and HIV transmissions. Patient outcomes improve when providers and patients select the most appropriate ART regimen. This results in better medication adherence and persistence, thereby increasing a patient’s ability to achieve and sustain viral suppression, eliminating HIV transmission.³

By the Numbers

According to an American Medical Association (AMA) December 2023 survey,⁴



87% of physicians reported that PA requirements led to greater use of health care resources, resulting in unnecessary waste.



69% of physicians reported resources were diverted to ineffective initial treatments due to prior authorization policies.



94% of physicians reported delays in accessing necessary care.



93% of physicians reported a negative impact on patient clinical outcomes.



78% of physicians reported patients abandoning treatment.

Simply put, PAs cause delays for patients resulting in negative clinical outcomes, cause medical provider burnout, and increase administrative costs.

THE SOLUTION:

HB 2584 will ban health insurers from utilizing prior authorizations on HIV treatment & prevention medications. By ensuring that all patients can access the right HIV medications based on their individual needs, open access policies keep individuals healthy, reduce inequities, and move Illinois closer to ending the HIV epidemic.

Endorsements:

The following 29 organizations are in support:



Agape Missions, NFP

AIDS Healthcare Foundation

Alliance Care 360

BLACHE: Black Leadership
Advocacy Coalition for
Healthcare Equity

Chicago Black Gay Men's
Caucus

Chicago House and Social
Service Agency

Chicago Queer Latine
Collaborative

Chicago Women's AIDS Project

EverThrive Illinois

Howard Brown Health

ICAN!

Illinois Harm Reduction &
Recovery Coalition

Illinois National Organization for
Women NOW

Illinois Public Health Association

Legal Council for Health Justice

Life is Work

Live Oak Chicago

Midwest Access Coalition

NCJW Chicago North Shore #20H

One Door Health Center of Illinois

Proactive Community Services

She Votes Illinois

Sinai Chicago

Taskforce Prevention

The Porchlight Collective SAP

The Project of the Quad Cities

Trellus

Vivent Health/TPAN

Writers, Planners, and Trainers
Incorporated

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¹Getting to Zero Illinois. "GTZ-IL Plan 2.0," June 20, 2024. <https://gtzillinois.hiv/gtz-il-plan/>.

²McManus, KA, Fuller B, Killelea A, Strumpf A, Powers SD, Rogawski McQuade ET. "Geographic Variation in Qualified Health Plan Coverage and Prior Authorization Requirements for HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis." JAMA Network Open 6, no. 11 (November 10, 2023): e2342781. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.42781>.

³CDC. "Undetectable = Untransmittable." Global HIV and TB, August 19, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/global-hiv-tb/php/our-approach/undetectable-untransmittable.html>.

⁴American Medical Association. "2023 AMA Prior Authorization Physician Survey," n.d. Accessed December 10, 2024.

⁵American Academy of Family Physicians. "AAFP Calls for Comprehensive Prior Authorization Reform." Accessed December 10, 2024. <https://www.aafp.org/news/government-medicine/prior-authorizationreform-letter.html>.