



**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT:
A00026 (Rosenthal) / S05534 (Hoylman-Siegel)**

Gay Men's Health Crisis, Inc. (GMHC), the world's first HIV and AIDS services organization, strongly supports A00026 (Rosenthal) / S05534 (Hoylman-Siegel), a bill that prohibits Medicaid from requiring prior authorization for antiretroviral medications that treat or prevent HIV, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and HIV treatment.

The New York State "Ending the Epidemic" progress report notes that providing better, more immediate access to antiretroviral drugs is a key tool to fight the AIDS epidemic. A person living with HIV on the appropriate treatment can live a long, healthy life, with effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV. Additionally, a person on PrEP can reduce their risk of contracting HIV by 99% when taking the medication as prescribed.¹ Restricting access to these life-saving medications not only undermines the relationship between a healthcare provider and their patient, but also puts up unnecessary roadblocks to prevention and treatment. Furthermore, the ability for the patient and medical professional to rapidly switch antiretroviral medications, especially with HIV cases, is key to effectively treating and stopping the spread of HIV and AIDS.

As an organization that works with HIV- and AIDS-affected communities, GMHC recognizes firsthand how barriers to timely medication access—such as prior authorization—can have serious consequences for both individual and public health. Prior authorization policies within Medicaid Managed Care Plans create unnecessary administrative hurdles that delay the start of treatment or prevention. These delays undermine treatment adherence, increase the likelihood of HIV transmission, and disproportionately affect low-income and other vulnerable populations who rely on Medicaid.²

In 2024, New York took a critical step forward by prohibiting private insurers from imposing prior authorization on antiretroviral drugs.³ However, that protection did not extend to Medicaid enrollees. At a time when New York is striving to achieve health equity and end the HIV epidemic, it is unacceptable for Medicaid recipients to face outdated restrictions that can derail prevention and treatment efforts. As such, GMHC strongly supports and urges the passage of A00026 (Rosenthal) / S05534 (Hoylman-Siegel) to eliminate prior authorization requirements for HIV medications under Medicaid. Together, we can ensure the safeguarding of patient-provider decision-making, improve health outcomes, and end the HIV epidemic in New York State.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Talk PrEP Together | HIV Prevention*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved April 25, 2025, from <https://www.cdc.gov/stophivtogether/hiv-prevention/prep.html> CDC+2

² Chan, P. A., Mena, L., Patel, R., Oldenburg, C. E., Beauchamps, L., Perez-Brumer, A., ... & Mayer, K. H. (2016). PrEP implementation challenges: A provider's perspective. *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 19(1), 21117. <https://doi.org/10.7448/IAS.19.1.21117>

³ New York State Senate. (2024). Chapter 152 of the Laws of 2024. <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws>