



END AIDS. LIVE LIFE.

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
A1619 (Rosenthal) / S1001 (Hoylman-Sigal)**

Gay Men's Health Crisis, Inc. (GMHC), the world's first and leading provider of HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and advocacy strongly supports **A1619 (Rosenthal) / S1001 (Hoylman-Sigal)**, a bill that prohibits the preferred drug program, managed care programs and insurers from restricting or imposing delays in the distribution of antiretroviral prescription drugs prescribed to a person for HIV or AIDS.

The "Ending the Epidemic" progress report notes that providing better, more immediate access to antiretroviral drugs is a key tool in fighting the AIDS epidemic.¹ A person living with HIV who is on effective HIV treatment can live a long, healthy life and have effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV to others. Additionally, a person at risk for HIV who is on effective HIV prevention medication can reduce their risk of getting HIV by 99% when taking the medication as prescribed.

Restricting access to these life-saving medications both undermines the relationship between a healthcare provider and their patient as well as puts up unnecessary roadblocks to prevention and treatment. Specifically with HIV treatment, the ability for the patient and medical professional to rapidly switch antiretroviral medications 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 that the importance of distributing HIV treatment to as every person who needs it. Therefore, open access to appropriate HIV prevention and treatment medication for HIV will also support health equity by ensuring that all New Yorkers have their treatment needs met regardless of their insurance plan. This bill will ensure that these important anti-retroviral medications are readily available to patients and not subject to procedural delays so that patients can start an HIV treatment regimen as soon as they are diagnosed or exposed to possible infection.²

For these reasons, and more, GMHC strongly supports and recommends the passage of **A1619 (Rosenthal) / S1001 (Hoylman-Sigal)**.

¹ NY State Senate. "NY State Senate Bill S1001," January 9, 2023.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/S1001>.

² NY State Senate. "NY State Senate Bill S1001," January 9, 2023.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/S1001>.



1. New York State Department of Health. (n.d.). Ending the AIDS epidemic in New York State. Retrieved April 25, 2025, from https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/ending_the_epidemic/
2. New York State Senate. (2023). Senate Bill S1001A: Prohibits insurers from restricting or imposing delays in the distribution of antiretroviral prescription drugs prescribed to a person for HIV or AIDS. Retrieved April 25, 2025, from <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/S1001/amendment/>