



September 9, 2025

Governor Gavin Newsom  
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Sacramento, CA 95814

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**National Groups:**

Hepatitis Education, Advocacy & Leadership  
(HEAL) Group  
Industry Advisory Group (IAG)  
National ADAP Working Group (NAWG)

**RE: AB-554 - SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom,

We write to express **SUPPORT** for **Assembly Bill 554**, the Protecting Rights, Expanding Prevention, and Advancing Reimbursement for Equity (PrEPARE) Act of 2025. This vital legislation builds on California's leadership in HIV prevention and care by removing critical barriers to access and ensuring equitable coverage of antiretroviral drugs, devices, and products used in HIV prevention.

**ABOUT CANN:** The Community Access National Network (CANN) is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization (formerly incorporated under the "Ryan White CARE Act Title II Community AIDS National Network") focusing on public policy issues relating to HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis. CANN's mission is to define, promote, and improve access to healthcare services and supports for people living with HIV/AIDS and/or viral hepatitis through advocacy, education, and networking. CANN's coalition-based work is done on behalf of the patient advocacy groups, pharmaceutical partners, and government agencies.

HIV continues to disproportionately impact communities of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those facing economic and structural inequities. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) are among the most effective tools we have to stop new HIV infections. However, protocols such as prior authorization and step therapy have historically delayed or denied timely access to these life-saving interventions—particularly for the most vulnerable.

**AB 554** strengthens protections by prohibiting unnecessary utilization management tools like prior authorization and step therapy for FDA-approved or CDC-recommended HIV prevention drugs, drug devices, and drug products. It also ensures that no cost-sharing is imposed and that long-acting injectable options are treated distinctly for coverage purposes—recognizing that different formulations serve different medical needs.

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Further, by requiring coverage of these preventive medications through outpatient drug benefits and allowing providers to access these tools directly, **AB 554** helps bridge the gap between availability and accessibility. These measures are not only evidence-based but essential for equity and public health.

We commend your leadership in advancing this legislation, which modernizes health care coverage to meet today's standards of HIV prevention and care. The PrEPARE Act will help ensure that no one is denied or delayed access to the tools that can prevent HIV and save lives. We urge the swift passage of **AB 554**. We support a California that leads with compassion, science, and equity.

We invite you to meet with us to discuss this matter further, we can be reached by email or phone at [kalvin@tiican.org](mailto:kalvin@tiican.org) , 913-954-8816, or [jen@tiicann.org](mailto:jen@tiicann.org), 313-333-8534.

Warmly in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Calvin Pugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kalvin Pugh  
Director of State Policy, 340B  
Community Access National Network (CANN)

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On behalf of  
Jen Laws  
President & CEO  
Community Access National Network