



July 14, 2025

RE: AB-554 - SUPPORT

California State Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mailing Address:

Attn: Jen Laws
PO Box 3009
Slidell, LA 70459

Chief Executive Officer:

Jen Laws
Phone: (313) 333-8534
Fax: (646) 786-3825
Email: jen@tiicann.org

Board of Directors:

Darnell Lewis, Chair
Riley Johnson, Secretary
Dusty Garner, Treasurer

Michelle Anderson
Hon. Donna Christensen, MD
Kathie Hiers
Kim Molnar
Judith Montenegro
Amanda Pratter
Trelvis D. Randolph, Esq
Cindy Snyder

Director Emeritus:

William E. Arnold (*in Memoriam*)
Jeff Coudriet (*in Memoriam*)
Hon. Maurice Hinchey, MC (*in Memoriam*)
Gary R. Rose, JD (*in Memoriam*)

National Programs:

340B Action Center
PDAB Action Center
Transgender Leadership in HIV Advocacy
HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch

National Groups:

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

Dear Honorable Chair Minjivar, Vice Chair Martinez Valladares, Members of the California State Senate Health Committee, and your respected staff,

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.

RE: AB 554 - SUPPORT

July 15, 2025

Page Two

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 , 913-954-8816, or jen@tiicann.org, 313-333-8534.

Respectfully submitted,



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

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