



September 16, 2025

Massachusetts General Court
Joint Committee on Financial Services
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National Groups:

Hepatitis Education, Advocacy & Leadership
(HEAL) Group

Industry Advisory Group (IAG)

RE: H.1245 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Feeney, Chair Murphy Vice Chair Moore, Vice Chair Biele, and Members of the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Financial Services,

Community Access National Network respectfully writes in **SUPPORT** of **H.1245**, an important piece of legislation that will expand access to life-saving HIV prevention medications and services across the Commonwealth.

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.

H.1245 ensures that pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and other U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA)-approved HIV prevention drugs are accessible without cost-sharing, prior authorization, or restrictions based on prescriber or practice setting. This approach removes common barriers that have too often limited equitable access to prevention, particularly for communities most impacted by HIV. By including comprehensive coverage of ancillary services necessary for safe and effective use, this legislation takes a holistic approach to HIV prevention.

This bill is essential to advancing our shared public health goals. By requiring coverage of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and other FDA-approved HIV prevention drugs without cost-sharing, prior authorization, or restrictions based on prescriber or practice setting, **H.1245** directly addresses structural barriers that have prevented too many individuals from accessing care. It also recognizes the importance of ancillary services needed to ensure the safe and effective use of these medications.

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September 16, 2025

Page Two

Importantly, **H.1245** also extends these protections to individuals covered by the Division of Insurance, state employees and retirees, and those in correctional facilities. Requiring correctional institutions to provide PrEP information, counseling, and medication prior to release will help reduce community transmission and address disproportionate HIV impacts on justice-involved populations. The bill further strengthens access by authorizing licensed pharmacists to prescribe, dispense, or administer PrEP under appropriate regulations—an evidence-based step shown to expand uptake of HIV prevention in other states.

We are particularly encouraged that **H.1245** extends protections across state employees and retirees, individuals covered by the Division of Insurance, and those in correctional facilities. Requiring correctional institutions to provide counseling, information, and PrEP medication before release is a critical step toward reducing transmission rates and improving continuity of care in communities disproportionately impacted by HIV.

Additionally, authorizing licensed pharmacists to prescribe, dispense, or administer HIV prevention drugs under appropriate regulations will help expand access in real and meaningful ways, especially in areas where provider shortages exist. Massachusetts has been a national leader in both HIV response and innovative health policy. By advancing **H.1245**, the Commonwealth will continue to demonstrate its commitment to eliminating HIV transmission, reducing stigma, and improving health equity for all residents.

We respectfully urge the Committee to report **H.1245** favorably and help ensure its passage into law.

If any member wishes to discuss this legislation or any matter of public health, I can be reached at 913.954.8816 or kalvin@tiicann.org

Warmly in service,



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

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