



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Require Insurance Coverage for PrEP and PEP

A.807 (O'Donnell)/S.688 (Hoylman)

May 20, 2022

The Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) strongly supports A.807 (O'Donnell)/S.688 (Hoylman) which would require insurance coverage for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent HIV infection.

CHCANYS is the statewide association of New York's 70+ federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), also known as community health centers (CHCs). Community health centers are a critical access point to healthcare services for low-income and medically underserved communities – providing a full range of primary and preventive health care services including HIV prevention and treatment services regardless of insurance coverage, immigration status or ability to pay. Among CHC patients, 90% are low-income, 68% are Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and people of color, 13% are uninsured, and 59% are enrolled in Medicaid or Child Health Plus.

Experiencing the worst HIV epidemic in the country led to New York State's commitment to undertake efforts to end the HIV epidemic. As part of the commitment, the State created the Ending the Epidemic (ETE) initiative in which the State would maximize the availability of lifesaving, transmission-interrupting treatment for HIV to save lives and improve the health of New Yorkers. This includes utilizing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) treatments, which are both important tools for preventing the spread of HIV. According to the Centers for Disease Control, PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by about 99% and reduces the risk of getting HIV from injection drug use by at least 74%.¹ PEP is effective at stopping HIV infection after a high-risk exposure if started within 72 hours of exposure.

According to the latest data, the number of persons newly diagnosed with HIV in New York State has decreased 51% from 2011 to 2020 (3,971 to 1,933).² The efforts to end the HIV epidemic are working, but more must be done to end the epidemic once and for all.

CHCANYS urges the New York State Legislature to pass A.807 (O'Donnell)/S.688 (Hoylman) to uphold the State's commitment to ending the HIV epidemic. This legislation would ensure that insurance plans provide coverage for PrEP and PEP, both important tools in the fight to end the HIV epidemic.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2022.

[https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/prep/index.html#:~:text=Pre%2Dexposure%20prophylaxis%20\(or%20PrEP,use%20by%20at%20least%2074%25](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/prep/index.html#:~:text=Pre%2Dexposure%20prophylaxis%20(or%20PrEP,use%20by%20at%20least%2074%25).

² Division of HIV Epidemiology, Evaluation and Partner Services, AIDS Institute and New York State Department of Health. 2021. New York State HIV/AIDS Annual Surveillance Report: For Persons Diagnosed Through December 2020.

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/statistics/annual/2020/2020_annual_surveillance_report.pdf