

# **HIV+HEP**

## POLICY INSTITUTE

### PRESS RELEASE

March 4, 2026

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## **Comprehensive National PrEP Bills to Prevent HIV Introduced**

### ***Guarantees Insurance Coverage & Creates National Grant Program***

*Washington, DC...* In an effort to improve the uptake of PrEP to prevent HIV, Sens. Tina Smith (D-MN) and Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Reps. Mark Takano (D-CA), Becca Balint (D-VT) and Mark Pocan (D-WI) have introduced the “[PrEP Access and Coverage Act of 2026](#).” The updated bills create a comprehensive national PrEP program by guaranteeing zero-cost sharing coverage of PrEP by private and public payers, including new long-acting options, and setting up a national grant program to provide PrEP to those who are uninsured.

“We thank the leadership of Sens. Smith and Schiff and Reps. Takano, Balint and Pocan in reintroducing the **PrEP Access and Coverage Act**,” commented **Carl Schmid, executive director** of the [HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute](#). “Passage of this bill will greatly expand access to PrEP for people who have health coverage across all payers and create a national grant program that includes community and provider outreach as well as PrEP drugs and associated services for the uninsured. We have a national HIV treatment program, but in order to end HIV, we need a comprehensive national HIV PrEP program.”

The **PrEP Access and Coverage Act** would:

- Ensure coverage of all PrEP drugs, including long-acting options, by private and public payers without patient cost-sharing or prior authorization barriers.
- Establish federal enforcement of insurance payer requirements, including annual reporting, since many insurers are not in compliance with current coverage requirements.
- Establish a grant program for states, community health centers, and others to provide PrEP to the uninsured and underserved communities.
- Establish public health education campaigns to increase utilization of PrEP.
- Prohibit discrimination based on PrEP use in disability insurance, long-term care insurance, or life insurance policies.

“HIV prevention tools such as PrEP can only be successful if people are able to access and afford them. The **PrEP Access and Coverage Act**, working alongside existing CDC HIV

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prevention programs and HRSA's Ryan White Program and community health centers, will help provide the comprehensive system needed to increase PrEP uptake in our country. Ending HIV will require both a commitment to continue the funding that sustains our current progress and investing in new, targeted strategies to reach those currently who do not have access to PrEP," concluded **Schmid**.

To read the Congressional sponsors' press release click [here](#). The Senate bill has 19 original cosponsors.

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The **HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute** is a national, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote quality and affordable healthcare for people living with or at risk of HIV, hepatitis, and other serious and chronic health conditions.