HIV+HEP
POLICY INSTITUTE

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On National PrEP Day, HIV+Hep Urges Congress to Pass Comprehensive PrEP Program

With Record Number of Sponsors, Bill Creates National Grant Program to Increase Uptake, Provide for the Uninsured & Guarantee Insurance Coverage

Washington, DC… On October 10th as we mark **National PrEP Day**, the **HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute** thanks the 41 US Senators and 179 Representatives of the US House who have co-sponsored the **PrEP Access and Coverage Act of 2026** and urges the Congress to pass it as soon as possible**.**

"National PrEP Day is a day when we recognize the importance of the innovative medications that are highly effective in preventing HIV and all the people involved in ensuring the delivery of PrEP. This includes scientists, diagnostic companies, providers, telehealth platforms, pharmacists, payers, outreach workers, policy activists, and the PrEP users themselves," commented **Carl Schmid**, **executive director** of the **HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute**. "It also provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made and the work ahead to ensure that everyone who needs PrEP has access to it no matter who they are, where they live, or their insurance status."

The **PrEP Access and Coverage Act of 2026** would create a comprehensive national PrEP program by guaranteeing barrier-free public and private insurance coverage of all forms of PrEP without cost-sharing and establish national grant programs to provide PrEP to the uninsured and increase community and provider education.

"The extraordinary high number of Members of Congress supporting the **PrEP Access and Coverage Act** clearly shows that there is strong support and momentum in the Congress to increasing access and reducing barriers to preventing HIV through PrEP in the United States," added Schmid. "If it is not passed this year, we certainly hope that it will be a top priority for the 120th Congress."

The lead Senate sponsors of the legislation are Sens. Tina Smith (D-MN) and Adam Schiff (D-CA) **(S 3990)** while Reps. Mark Takano (D-CA), Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Becca Balint (D-VT) are the leads in the House (**HR 7853**).

Despite the availability of highly effective, FDA-approved medications to treat and prevent HIV, more than 39,000 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in the United States in 2024. The CDC estimates that 2.2 million people in the U.S. could benefit from PrEP, yet there are significant disparities in uptake. In addition to increasing HIV treatment, PrEP is a key component of ending HIV. However, there is not a major federal investment in increasing PrEP uptake and providing PrEP to the uninsured. While PrEP has an "A" recommendation from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), which requires most health plans to cover PrEP without cost-sharing under the Affordable Care Act, many people continue to face insurance coverage barriers, including inappropriate prior authorization requirements and other restrictions, particularly on newer long-acting options. Even more options of long-acting PrEP are anticipated in the future.

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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.