

VOTE YES ON HB2665

Supported by the Illinois Department of Public Health

Rep. Lamont Robinson

Co-sponsors: Greg Harris, Rita Mayfield, Kelly M. Cassidy, Kathleen Willis, Robert Rita, Robert Martwick, Michael Halpin, Theresa Mah, Delia C. Ramirez and Camille Y. Lilly.

HB 2665, sponsored by Rep. Lamont Robinson (D-Chicago), seeks to align Illinois with federal guidance regarding preventive health care access, giving providers more clarity in their provision of care and treatment for communicable diseases.

In 2012, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved an HIV medication for use as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP – a once-daily pill) for HIV prevention in people ages 18 and over. In May 2018, the FDA expanded this approval to include adolescents vulnerable to HIV who weigh at least 77 pounds. PrEP is nearly 100% effective at preventing HIV transmission when used consistently and correctly. HB 2665 creates the opportunity to allow the state to leverage the power of PrEP to ensure youth can access life-saving prevention services in consultation with their health care provider.

Why is this bill needed?

- According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), gay youth account for the majority (**85%**) of new HIV diagnoses among youth aged 13 – 24. 60% of these cases were Black and 17% were Latinx.
- At the end of 2015, Black gay youth represented **45%** of youth living with HIV in Illinois.
- In Illinois, young people are disproportionately affected by HIV. From 2006 – 2015 (latest years for data), the number of new HIV diagnoses among persons aged 25 – 29 increased by 19%, and the number among 20 – 24 year olds increased by 67%.
- **1 in 2** young gay Black youth will become HIV-positive by age 40 if trends continue.

Getting to Zero Illinois

Increased access to PrEP is critical to help the state achieve its “Getting to Zero” goals, which would end the HIV epidemic by 2030 in Illinois. To achieve this goal, we must transition our system to one that more effectively helps youth live free of HIV. We must use strategies that lead to the most effective outcomes possible - specifically treatment for people living with HIV and PrEP for HIV-negative people vulnerable to HIV. If Illinois will end the HIV epidemic as we know it by 2030, we need to increase the numbers of people living with HIV on treatment as well as the numbers of HIV-negative people on PrEP in hard-hit communities.

Key Components of HB 2665

- Clarifies that health care providers can prescribe PrEP to youth, as allowed by the FDA
- Make preventative options more accessible for young people vulnerable to HIV
- Helps significantly reduce the amount of new HIV cases in Illinois amongst youth
- Maintains current access to STI testing and treatment, both of which are also components of PrEP-related programming

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For more information contact: **Aditi Singh**, asingh@aidschicago.org, (773) 383-3382; **Dave Lowitzki**, dave@lowitzkiconsulting.com, (312) 296-5802; Last Updated 3/22/2019.

Organizational Support

AIDS Foundation of Chicago

American Nurses Association – Illinois

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

Center on Halsted

Champaign County Health Care Consumers

Chicago Department of Public Health

Chicago House & Social Service Agency

Coalition for Justice and Respect (CJR)

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Illinois Primary Health Care Association

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Jackson County Health Department

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Legal Council for Health Justice

Northwestern University’s Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing

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Projects Advancing Sexual Diversity

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Southside Democracy For America (SDFA)

Task Force Prevention and Community Services

Thresholds

University of Chicago - Chicago Center for HIV Elimination

Youth Outlook

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