



February 7, 2024

[submitted electronically via: harrell.gayle.web@flsenate.gov]

The Honorable Gayle Harrell
Chair, Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

RE: SB1320 – HIV Infection Prevention Drugs – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Harrell, Vice Chair Garcia, and members of the Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services:

The Florida Pharmacy Association (FPA) and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) appreciate the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1320](#). This bill will authorize pharmacists to screen patients for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and order and dispense HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) pursuant to a collaborative practice agreement with a physician.

The Florida Pharmacy Association (FPA) is the collective voice of the profession of pharmacy, and serve to represent the goals, values, and best interest of our members at both state and national levels. FPA is the primary source for current, reliable information on the legal and regulatory issues that affect the profession. FPA is the trusted resource in optimizing patient outcomes through unifying, educating and guiding pharmacy practitioners in changing the health care landscape. Our membership includes pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and others with an interest in the business and profession of pharmacy.

APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States advancing the entire pharmacy profession, including 22,240 licensed pharmacists in Florida. APhA represents pharmacists in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, specialty pharmacies, community health centers, physician offices, ambulatory clinics, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and government facilities. Our members strive to improve medication use, advance patient care, and enhance public health. APhA represents the pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians who practice in numerous settings and provide care to many of your constituents. As the voice of pharmacy, APhA leads the profession and equips members for their role as the medication expert in team-based, patient-centered care. APhA inspires, innovates, and creates opportunities for members and pharmacists worldwide to optimize medication use and health for all.

As one of the most accessible and trusted health care providers in their communities,¹ pharmacists have a significant role to contribute in initiating access to HIV PrEP/PEP. Nearly 90% of the U.S. population lives within five miles of a community pharmacy and this high level of accessibility allows pharmacists to serve

¹ Berenbrok LA, Tang S, Gabriel N, Guo J, Sharareh N, Patel N, Dickson S, Hernandez I, Access to Community Pharmacies: A Nation-Wide Geographic Information Systems Cross-sectional Analysis, Journal of the American Pharmacists Association (2022), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.japh.2022.07.003>.

in a unique role as another point of entrance for patients to get integrated into longitudinal and acute HIV preventative services.

Programs allowing pharmacists to furnish HIV PrEP/PEP have expanded across the country in the past ten years. Pharmacists have the authority to initiate HIV PrEP in 14 states² and HIV PEP in 15 states,³ via a statewide protocol, standing order, or independent prescriptive authority. Pharmacists in these programs serve as a triage point, established within accessible and familiar community settings, for patients to enter into the HIV preventative care system. The accessibility of pharmacists is particularly important for PEP, due to the time-sensitive nature required for the initiation of medication therapy within 72 hours (3 days) of a suspected exposure. Engagement through PEP pharmacy services also establishes a contact point for the transition from PEP to PrEP for high-risk patients, as recommended by the most recent guideline recommendations by the U.S. Public Health Service, allowing for a more seamless entry into the HIV preventative care system.⁴

For these reasons, we support SB1320 and respectfully request your “AYE” vote. If you have any questions or require additional information, please don’t hesitate to contact Michael Jackson, BPharm, CPh, FPA Interim Executive Vice President and CEO by email at mjackson@pharmview.com, and E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA, APhA Advisor for State Government Affairs by email at mmurphy@aphanet.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Jackson, BPharm, CPh
Interim Executive Vice President and CEO
Florida Pharmacy Association

Michael Baxter, MA
Vice President, Federal and State Government Affairs
American Pharmacists Association

cc: Senator Bryan Avila
Senator Dennis Baxley
Senator Lauren Book
Senator Jason Brodeur
Senator Danny Burgess
Senator Colleen Burton
Senator Tracie Davis
Senator Joe Gruters
Senator Darryl Ervin Rouson
Senator Corey Simon

² Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia

³ Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: US Public Health Service: Preexposure prophylaxis for the prevention of HIV infection in the United States—2021 Update: a clinical practice guideline. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/prep/cdc-hiv-prep-guidelines-2021.pdf>. Published 2021.