



March 12, 2024

Chair Melissa H. Wiklund  
2107 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee:

OutFront Minnesota writes in support of SF 2320 (Dibble) The PEP/PrEP Over-The-Counter (OTC) bill. OutFront Minnesota, founded in 1987, is the state's largest LGBTQ+ advocacy organization that has sought to build power within Minnesota's LGBTQ+ communities and address inequities through intersectional organizing, advocacy, education, and direct support services. We believe that this legislation is important to fostering a Minnesota that protects *all* of its residents.

Today, we support the PEP/PrEP Over-The-Counter (OTC) bill (SF 2320) which would ensure that Minnesotans have the full OTC access to "pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) medications when used for the prevention or treatment of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)." Despite major medical advancements, HIV remains a persistent challenge that disproportionately impacts BIPOC & LGBTQ+ communities. The need for accessible and effective tools like PEP & PrEP is imperative, particularly for low-income community members.

PrEP is used for those who are HIV negative, while PEP are emergency medications taken within 72 hours of potential exposure to HIV to prevent transmission of HIV.<sup>1</sup> According to the Minnesota Department of Health, PrEP can reduce someone's risk of HIV infection when exposed by up to 99%.<sup>2</sup> Observational research suggests that PEP can reduce the risk of getting HIV by more than 80%. Minnesota has a long history of ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals have the full protections and support of our state's laws; and HF 2355 will further Minnesota's leader as a national leader in LGBTQ+ rights and health care access.

OutFront Minnesota seeks to support and empower *all* residents in becoming their best and healthiest selves. The passage SF 2320 will advance those goals; and show our trans and gender expansive communities that they belong here. OutFront Minnesota respectfully urges your support for SF 2320 the Gender Affirming Care Insurance bill.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://hivinfo.nih.gov/understanding-hiv/fact-sheets/post-exposure-prophylaxis-pegp>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hiv/prevention/prep>



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