



Legislative Testimony
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Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 1068, An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding a Human Immunodeficiency Virus Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Drug Assistance Program

Senator Anwar, Representative McCarthy-Vahey, Ranking Members Somers and Klarides Ditria, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am writing to testify in support of Senate Bill 1068, An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding a Human Immunodeficiency Virus Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Drug Assistance Program.

The ACLU-CT works to defend and advance the civil rights and civil liberties of people living with HIV. Advances in medical treatment mean that an HIV diagnosis is no longer the death sentence it seemed to be in the 1980s. People living with HIV are thriving in every walk of life, but nonetheless, people continue to suffer the effects of stigma, prejudice, and misunderstanding about HIV. We are committed to expanding access to medical care related to HIV, especially for people living with HIV who are incarcerated. Senate Bill 1068 would provide financial assistance to uninsured and underinsured people who need pre-exposure or post-exposure prophylaxis who cannot pay for preventative HIV medicines. No person should risk contracting HIV just because they cannot afford health care. As such, the ACLU-CT supports this bill, and urges this Committee to do the same.