



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Mark González
California State Assembly, Majority Whip
1021 O Street, Suite 6150
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0054

The Honorable Matt Haney
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5740
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-001

RE: Support for AB 554 (González, Haney)—Health care coverage: antiretroviral drugs, drug devices, and drug products

Dear Assemblymembers González and Haney,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, the City supports AB 554 to expand access and lower costs for antiretroviral medication. The Protecting Rights, Expanding Prevention, and Advancing Reimbursement for Equity (PrEPARE) Act of 2025 will make lifesaving medications more affordable and further help reduce the risks of HIV/AIDS.

The City of Long Beach has nearly twice the rate of people living with HIV than the statewide average as of 2022. The City's Department of Health and Human Services actively provides HIV care and treatment and prioritizes prevention efforts such as disseminating educational materials, free testing kits, and other resources to reduce the risk of HIV transmission. Additional action, however, at the State level can reduce barriers to medication and treatment.

Several local clinics that specialize in HIV treatment and supportive services would potentially benefit from the PrEPARE Act. This bill would help medical professionals provide the preferred treatment for residents in need of care, by reducing reimbursement barriers for small clinics like those in Long Beach. Additionally, with changes in Federal practices and protections, patients deserve stability and assurance that they can receive the lifesaving medication they need. The diligent outreach and compassionate care provided by trusted medical professionals and organizations is extremely important to the greater Long Beach community.

The City is committed to ensuring residents have access to the medical care they need, and partnering with medical providers who have built valuable trust with their patients. AB 554 demonstrates California's continued leadership in prioritizing public health and supporting people living with HIV. For these reasons, the City supports AB 554.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District

562.570.6801 — mayor@longbeach.gov — [@longbeachmayor](https://www.instagram.com/longbeachmayor)
411 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, California 90802