



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

July 6, 2023

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 339 (Wiener)—HIV preexposure prophylaxis and postexposure prophylaxis

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of SB 339. This bill would extend the length of time pharmacies can furnish preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) without a prescription, from a 60-day supply of PrEP to a 90-day supply. Furthermore, this bill would require a health care service plan and health insurer to cover PrEP and postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) furnished by a pharmacist, including costs for the pharmacist's services and related testing ordered by the pharmacist, and to pay or reimburse the cost of the service performed by a pharmacist at an in-network pharmacy or a pharmacist at an out-of-network pharmacy if the health care service plan or health insurer has an out-of-network pharmacy benefit. The City supports legislation and funding to further increase access to quality health care.

According to the [STI Surveillance Annual Report](#), there were 4,363 Long Beach residents living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in 2020. Long Beach continues to experience higher rates of newly diagnosed HIV compared to Los Angeles County and California. In 2020, Long Beach had a rate of 21 new HIV infections per 100,000 population, while Los Angeles County had a rate of 16 per 100,000 and California had 10 per 100,000. In 2020, 73 percent of newly diagnosed people with HIV were retained in HIV care and 74 percent achieved viral suppression. SB 339 will help ensure more people have access to HIV prevention medications.

SB 339 would increase access to HIV prevention medications by encouraging and supporting local pharmacists to provide this intervention. For these reasons, the City supports SB 339.

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