



Providing PrEP for the Nation

Carl Baloney, Jr.
Vice President and Chief Advocacy Officer
AIDS United



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF WORKING
FOR EVERYONE IMPACTED BY HIV

What can this administration do to foster better systems to get PrEP to the people who can benefit most from it?

- Simplify PrEP protocols
- Educate providers
- Mandate “opt-out” screenings
- Expand access to HIV Rapid Test Kits
- Widen those who can prescribe PrEP

What is broken in our PrEP delivery systems for people on Medicaid and for the uninsured and what solutions to fix these systems?

- **Medicaid**
 - Insurance covers the cost of labs, office visit and medication, so it's doing what it's supposed to do.
- **Uninsured**
 - Some patients can't afford or choose not to afford the cost of the office visit and labs.
 - The medication isn't hard to get from Gilead with documentation, a barrier for some
- **340b**
 - A big factor in providing services to uninsured or under-insured people.
 - Up to 40% of revenue loss came from Gilead's unilateral changes to its PAP program.
 - This simultaneous 3-way squeeze severely undermines the business model that makes it possible for 340b STD clinics to meaningfully participate in the national HIV prevention/ETE strategy.

What should the administration do about Ready, Set, PrEP?

- Ready, Set PrEP was flawed from the start. It's time to start from scratch with a new program.
- Gilead was providing medicines for free to uninsured people seeking PrEP, provided they had a negative HIV test and a prescription. The problem is, Provider visits and HIV tests are not always free and the program did not include this service.
- In summary: While this program makes medications available to patients, it does not produce revenue for Agencies leading to a net loss for each patient participating in Ready Set PrEP.

How can PACHA support an ambitious program to bolster PrEP access and utilization among communities who can benefit from it most?

- Recognize that HIV is still an epidemic.
- Emphasize that we have the tools to eliminate it, if they are just applied
 - universal testing
 - treatment as prevention (U=U)
 - PrEP and PEP.
- Use the momentum and lessons learned from the Covid Pandemic and apply similar access to education, testing and prevention tools for the HIV epidemic.
 - Make testing cheap or free, and universally available.
- Destigmatize HIV.
- Eliminate HIV Criminalization laws.
 - 20 states have laws on the books that make it a crime not to disclose HIV status.

Questions?