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Feel free incorporate information about your organization and your reasons for supporting.
Email a copy to cpulsipher@apla.org.
Deadline for submission is COB March 28, 2016

March 29, 2016

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2640 (Gipson) – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Wood:

On behalf of [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME], I urge you to support AB 2640 (Gipson), which will be heard in your committee April 5, 2016. AB 2640 would ensure that HIV-negative individuals who undergo HIV testing receive preventive counseling after their test. Specifically, AB 2640 would require that individuals receive information about the effectiveness and safety of all FDA-approved methods that reduce the risk of contracting HIV, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

[INSERT SENTENCE/PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION—WHERE YOU ARE LOCATED, HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS YOU SERVE, AND THE KINDS OF SERVICES YOU PROVIDE]

Roughly 4,700 individuals are newly diagnosed with HIV in California each year. PrEP and PEP are highly effective HIV prevention interventions that could dramatically reduce new infections. PrEP is an HIV prevention strategy in which HIV-negative individuals take a daily medication to reduce their risk of becoming infected. PEP involves taking certain anti-HIV medications as soon as possible after a potential exposure to reduce the risk of becoming HIV-positive. PrEP and PEP are key components of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, but awareness and use of these interventions remain extremely low. It is vital to increase awareness and use of PrEP and PEP among communities at risk for HIV.

AB 2640 builds on AB 446 (Mitchell)—(Chapter 589, Statutes of 2013)—which established what information must be provided to individuals during HIV post-test counseling, including advising the individual of the need for periodic retesting and explaining the limitations of current testing technology. Given the effectiveness of PrEP and PEP, it is now critically important to ensure that individuals receiving an HIV test are also provided with accurate information about the benefits these interventions.

For these reasons, [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] supports AB 2640 and we urge your aye vote on this important public health measure.

Sincerely,

[INSERT SIGNATURE, TITLE of INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT ORGANIZATION]

cc: The Honorable Mike Gipson
The Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee
Rosielyn Pulmano, Assembly Health Committee
Bill Lewis, Assembly Republican Caucus