

## House Resolution 843

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60<sup>th</sup>, Park of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Davis of the 87<sup>th</sup>, Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, and Kennard of the 102<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the *National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States:*  
2 *2022-2025* and encouraging the Georgia Department of Health to work with the Georgia  
3 Department of Community Health to enhance HIV prevention for Medicaid beneficiaries;  
4 and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the *National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States: 2022-2025* (NHAS)  
6 serves as a framework for our country's collective effort in policy, research, programming,  
7 and planning to end HIV in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, the NHAS stresses the importance of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to  
9 prevent HIV and seeks to scale-up PrEP awareness and access efforts for people for whom  
10 it is indicated and desired, particularly for Black and Latino communities, as well as support  
11 medication adherence; and

12 WHEREAS, according to the most recent data available, the federal Centers for Disease  
13 Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately 1.2 million people in the United  
14 States are living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), while the Georgia Department  
15 of Public Health (DPH) estimates that over 56,400 people are living with HIV in Georgia;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, PrEP is an antiretroviral therapy that has been shown to be safe and highly  
18 effective in reducing the risk of acquiring HIV; and

19 WHEREAS, the Southeastern United States accounted for 52 percent of new HIV diagnoses  
20 in the United States yet only represented 30 percent of all PrEP users in 2016; and

21 WHEREAS, according to the CDC, 8,999 Georgians were prescribed PrEP in 2019;  
22 however, 39,030 Georgians at high risk for HIV could potentially benefit from PrEP,  
23 meaning only 23 percent of individuals who could benefit from PrEP were prescribed it; and

24 WHEREAS, the CDC noted racial disparities in PrEP uptake among at-risk populations in  
25 their *Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for the Prevention of HIV Infection in the United States -*  
26 *2021 Updated*, stating "...the geographic, sex, and racial/ethnic distribution of persons  
27 prescribed PrEP is not equitable when compared to the distribution of new HIV diagnoses  
28 that could be prevented. African Americans, Hispanics, women and residents of southern  
29 states have disproportionately low numbers of PrEP users.;" and

30 WHEREAS, only 8.2 percent of PrEP users in Georgia women in 2019; and

31 WHEREAS, preventing additional infections offers significant financial benefit in addition  
32 to critical health benefits as studies estimate each HIV positive patient may approach  
33 \$338,400 in costs to the healthcare system over a lifetime; and

34 WHEREAS, there is a lack of education and awareness of PrEP among medical and health  
35 professionals, and the CDC estimates approximately one-third of primary care doctors and  
36 nurses have not learned or heard about PrEP; and

37 WHEREAS, there is a need to encourage health care providers to provide culturally and  
38 linguistically competent care, and in addition, timely care of HIV prevention strategies, such  
39 as PrEP to prevent the acquisition of HIV.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
41 the members of this body recognizes and commends the *National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the*  
42 *United States: 2022-2025* and encourages the Georgia Department of Health to work with  
43 the Georgia Department of Community Health to enhance HIV prevention for Medicaid  
44 beneficiaries by educating individuals who could benefit from PrEP, including populations  
45 who are disproportionately impacted by HIV and have difficulty accessing PrEP such as  
46 women and Black and Latino communities, as well as Medicaid providers about the benefits  
47 of all PrEP methods to ensure patients have the best opportunity to remain adherent and free  
48 from HIV without unnecessary barriers to care.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
50 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
51 public and the press.