
Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts

**MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT
A 2924 (Peoples-Stokes)
2017**

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the executive law, in relation to HIV post-exposure prophylaxis and other health care services for sexual assault victims

Sexual assaults can leave victims at risk for a host of physical, emotional, and psychological issues. One of the most concerning of these is HIV/AIDS, which affects thousands of New Yorkers every year. Advancements in HIV treatment allow those who have been exposed to HIV to undergo post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in order to lower their chances of contracting HIV. Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York is, rightly, a priority for the state, and this law would aid in that effort for one of our most vulnerable populations.

Current law enables sexual assault victims to obtain a seven-day course of PEP, with a referral to follow up with a health care provider. A 2924 would enhance victims' access to PEP by entitling them to a full course of the medication, as well as payment.

These measures are of particular importance for minors, who may fear the consequences should a parent or guardian learn that the minor sought treatment and why. A lack of confidentiality, especially if the victim must follow up with another provider, may prevent minors from seeking care at all. It is for this reason that family planning services are always confidential for minors and that PPESA supports this bill.

A2924 would afford sexual assault victims access to a full regimen of PEP with the option for payment assistance from the Office of Victim Services. These changes, though subtle, would give victims peace of mind—clinically and financially. They would give minors the reassurance that their parents or guardians would not learn about their treatment through insurance documents, therefore encouraging minors to seek medical attention in the wake of a sexual assault.

PPESA encourages the legislature to support this legislation.