

**Subject:** HealthHIV's Written Testimony for the Washington Prescription Drug Affordability Board's 05/21/2025 Meeting

Dear Members of the Washington Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB),

On behalf of HealthHIV, thank you for the opportunity to comment on your ongoing deliberations. We wanted to outline below a series of forward-looking recommendations with respect to ongoing access and equity considerations for Washington PDAB processes.

To ensure affordability efforts effectively align with maintaining medication access and health equity, we recommend consideration of the following:

1. Increasing the degree of patient and community stakeholder representation on the PDAB to ensure decisions better reflect the needs of those most impacted by them.
2. Advancing a clear focus on reducing out-of-pocket costs for patients while maintaining access to critical treatments.
3. Prioritizing shared clinical decision-making between providers and patients to safeguard individualized care and improve health outcomes.
4. Ensuring that quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) are not part of the methodology used to evaluate drug affordability. *This metric, which assigns value to lives based on perceived "quality," disproportionately impacts people with chronic conditions like HIV and undermines equitable access to care.*

Thank you all for your continued leadership, consideration, and crucial work.

Sincerely,

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