

Senate Human Service Committee

March 11th, 2025 HB 1217

Testimony in Support

Dear Chair Lee and the members of the Senate Human Service Committee,

I urge a “Do Pass” on HB 1217.

I work at a clinic that serves clients with HIV/AIDs and as a program manager for the [LGBTQ+ Health Directory](#). I am not here today to represent either of those organizations, but to give testimony based on my personal experience being in the healthcare world and serving clients and patients.

There is still a world of misinformation around what it means to have HIV, especially in our modern landscape of treatment or PrEP medication to prevent exposure. Laws like Section 12.1-20-17 become impractical and don’t distinguish between someone with HIV or someone with HIV but undetectable and non-transmittable levels. It doesn’t reflect modern reality and becomes impossible to meaningfully enforce when between two parties you can have conflicting stories of consent, knowledge of status, or medication being taken.

In 2023, this law’s removal was supported by our health organizations as no longer necessary on merit of where we’ve come medically. And because removing this law will expand our state's health goals of getting everyone tested. The point of removing this section isn’t moral posturing to support individuals living with HIV/Aids, but rather to productively and with purpose change our models of intervention from punitive to restorative.

To put another way, removing this section doesn’t encourage criminal behavior, but it does help our health institutes encourage testing and treatment, for people to know their statuses, and encourage trust with clients, while also improving public health. I urge a “Do Pass” on this bill for these reasons.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler