



Healthvana

Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

February 10, 2020 - Washington D.C.

Public Comment

“I know this seems crazy, but can I get HIV from taking PrEP? Other vaccines infect you with a bit of the virus, right? So how is this different?” - Patient of color via Healthvana.

Medical Mistrust

In a 2016 national survey about HIV in the black community, **“40% believed there is a cure for HIV, but the government is withholding it from the poor.”** Medical mistrust among communities of color is one of the largest impediments to ending the HIV epidemic and it can be best addressed with the use of technology - and we’re seeing it successfully done, every day, by way of our platform.

My name is Ramin Bastani and I’m the CEO of Healthvana. Our mission is to help end HIV with our innovative, technology platform that both empowers patients on their mobile phones and amplifies the incredible front-line staff who know how to communicate with **their** communities best.

150,000+ patients of color on Healthvana

This isn’t just an idea. We are already working with over 300,000 patients across the U.S. who are at-risk of HIV, on PrEP or HIV positive. **Over 150,000 of those patients are from communities of color, and they are asking questions exactly like the one above.** They are doing so at a time of **their** choosing, at a place of **their** choosing, in the way of **their** choosing, and through the most intimate thing the world has ever seen - **their** mobile phone.

Our team respectfully asks you to consider the importance of technology in all aspects of ending the HIV epidemic, especially when it comes to helping communities of color start and stay on PrEP. I made similar comments at the last PACHA meeting in Miami (next page) and hope there will be just as much attention devoted to adherence and persistence of PrEP as there is to access to PrEP.

I appreciate the opportunity to address the council. Thank you for the work you do and please know that I am here to help any stakeholders looking to use technology to help end HIV.