



# Healthvana

Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

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Public Comment

Hello, my name is Ramin Bastani, CEO of Healthvana. Our mission is to help end HIV with innovation and technology.

You may not have heard of us, but we're empowering over 300,000 patients who are at high-risk of HIV, already on PrEP or HIV+ manage their health on their mobile phones. And we're doing so by working with clinics in 17 states today - helping them deliver better care at a lower cost. If you go to our website, there is a 1 min video that will show you exactly what we do.

Our recent focus has been on PrEP and by the end of this year we'll have about 5% of all patients on PrEP using Healthvana - and by this time next year we anticipate it to be about ~15%. These patients will receive automated reminders and educational messages such as:

- "You may experience nausea the first few days on PrEP - don't worry, it's normal. If it persists, please click here to send a message to your care team" or
- "It's time to come back in for get your next prescription for PrEP, please click here to schedule an appointment"

The idea is to help build relationships with patients where they spend most of their time - on their phones. And now that you know a bit about our company, I'd like to share a growing problem we're seeing - and it's around adherence and retention to PrEP. No doubt PrEP works amazingly well, when taken as prescribed. And access is increasing through incredible initiatives shared such as:

1. 200,000 patients getting free PrEP from Gilead
2. Pharmacies enabling patients to get PrEP without a prescription or pre-authorization (starting in California)
3. Work by PACHA increasing access to PrEP through support of the Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan

But I respectfully request the council, and all stakeholders, consider making PrEP adherence and retention just as big of an initiative as access. Dr. Lisa Eaton published a paper late last year, highlighting what we're seeing on the ground. And she interviewed 4,000 black men who have sex with men at black pride events, and found that HIV prevalence in the population on PrEP was actually 60% higher than in those not on PrEP. We know that technology can help.

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.