



May 21, 2014

Mayor Bill de Blasio  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

On behalf of the HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York (Planning Council), I write to encourage you to address the requirement imposed on New Yorkers living with HIV by many private health insurance companies to use mail order pharmacies when filling prescriptions. The Planning Council is comprised of health care and service providers, governmental appointees, advocates, and people living with HIV (PLWH), all of whom are abundantly aware of the critical importance of uninterrupted access to lifesaving medications.

Planning Council members are disturbed to learn that many private insurance companies are requiring PLWH to use mail order pharmacies – systems that require prescriptions to be delivered to a consumer’s home address – to receive their HIV medications. This policy saves money for the insurance companies but poses real complications for PLWH who live in apartment buildings that cannot accommodate package delivery. Some medications come in containers too large to fit into a narrow mailbox; others need to be refrigerated (unlikely in a mailbox); others go astray and become lost or stolen, compromising privacy. PLWH whose medication is paid for by Medicaid or the New York State AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) can use their local pharmacy and are protected from this problem, but many PLWH who have private coverage are not. Medicaid Managed Care programs, moreover, are moving toward a similar policy.

My fellow Planning Council members and I encourage you to support New York City Council Resolution 0138-2014 calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and Governor Cuomo to sign, the Anti-Mandatory Mail Order Pharmacy Bill (A.5723B/S.3995B), ensuring that consumers are able to access medications from local participating pharmacies, including medications for HIV.

*HIV Health & Human Services Planning Council of New York*  
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347.396.7559 ■ [www.nyhiv.org](http://www.nyhiv.org)

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Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Cordero". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Cordero" clearly legible.

Robert Cordero, MSW  
Community Co-Chair

**Attachments:**

- (1) The New York City Council, Res. No. 138-2014
- (2) New York State Senate, Bill S.3995B
- (3) New York State Assembly, Bill A.5723B
- (4) Organizational Sign on Letter Urging the State Legislature to Pass and the Governor to Sign A.5723B/S.3995B, Gay Men's Health Crisis, May 12, 2014

**CC:** Mary Bassett, MD, MPH, Commissioner, NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene  
Jan Carl Park, Governmental Co-Chair, HIV Planning Council of New York