Memorandum in Support
2017-18 Executive Proposal to END AIDS

The New York American College of Emergency Physicians (New York ACEP), representing over 2,650 physicians across New York State, strongly supports Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s proposal to require non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) availability in all emergency department and urgent care facilities in the State. This proposal, first put forward in the State of the State Address, is expected to be introduced as legislation during the 2017 Legislative Session.

On June 29, 2014, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced a three-point plan to end the AIDS epidemic in New York State. The plan includes identifying individuals with HIV who remain undiagnosed, linking those diagnosed with HIV to health care and getting them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV suppression, and facilitating access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) for high-risk persons to keep them HIV-negative.

Current availability of nPEP is geographically limited and inconsistent. The treatment works best when started early, with the initial dose administered soon after potential HIV exposure. The medication dose is twice daily. This proposal would require emergency departments and urgent care facilities to provide a 7-day starter pack of medication upon discharge to patients who have experienced a potential non-occupational exposure. This would give the patient time to follow-up with a community health care provider who can provide post-emergency or post-urgent medical treatment.

The most recent data from the New York State Department of Health shows that the number of new HIV infections has fallen to fewer than 2,500 in 2014, a record low. This proposal will help to build on that success. New York ACEP supports the Governor’s proposal to require non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) availability in emergency departments and urgent care facilities in an effort to END AIDS.

For these reasons, New York ACEP urges the New York Legislature to introduce and pass legislation into law that would require non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) availability in emergency departments and urgent care facilities.