



Fellow Democrats,

We believe all patients should have access to affordable medicines and want to do something to address the high prices of prescription drugs. Unfortunately, Proposition 61 is not the answer because it will not lower prescription drug costs, but could impede access to medications for vulnerable populations. **After careful consideration, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club have opposed Prop 61 and we are encouraging other Democrats and leaders in the LGBT community to do the same.**

The person behind Prop 61 is Michael Weinstein. If you are not familiar with Michael Weinstein, he is the individual who has taken a strong stance against the HIV preventative, PrEP and his organization has opposed AB 2640, which seeks to increase awareness about the availability of PrEP to those individuals who get tested for HIV. Learn more from the [LA LGBT Center](#) about Weinstein's and AHF's stance on Prep and AB 2640.

Michael Weinstein and AHF have spent nearly \$10 million already to pass Proposition 61 while exempting AHF's HMO from the initiative's provisions. In fact, Prop 61 only covers 12% of the population of California, but could have negative impacts for the programs it does cover, and potentially all of us.

Respected HIV/AIDS organizations like [Project Inform](#), [San Francisco AIDS Foundation](#), [AIDS Project Los Angeles](#) and the [Los Angeles LGBT Center](#) looked at Proposition 61 and said: "It is unclear whether the initiative would result in cost savings to the state" and that Prop 61 "could actually increase the price of drugs in a number of public programs, including (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) ADAP, Medi-Cal, the VA, and California's prison system." They also pointed out that Prop 61 "does not include any provisions that would lower the cost of prescription drugs for consumers."

And even the state's independent [Legislative Analyst](#) has said Prop 61 "could raise DHCS spending on prescription drugs."

We hope you will take a close look at Proposition 61 and consider joining us in opposing it.

Sincerely,

Peter Gallotta, President
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Brian Leubitz & Lou Fischer, Co-Chairs
Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club