

# PROTECT ACCESS AND INNOVATION



## 7 INSURERS ALLEGED TO USE SKIMPY DRUG COVERAGE TO DISCOURAGE HIV PATIENTS

By Michelle Andrews, October 18, 2016 | [Kaiser Health News](#)

***“The [Affordable Care Act] prohibits insurers from discriminating against people with serious illnesses, but some marketplace plans sidestep that taboo by making the drugs that people with HIV need unavailable or unaffordable, complaints filed recently with the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office for Civil Rights allege. The effect may be to discourage people with HIV from buying a particular plan or getting the treatment they need, according to the complaint.”***

“The center’s [Harvard Law School’s Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation] work builds on an earlier

### Better Medicines Benefit Society



New medicines save lives, benefitting patients, the healthcare system and our overall economy. For example, the development of HAART (highly active antiretroviral therapy) transformed HIV/AIDS care. Unfortunately, these gains can be reversed by insurer policies that hamper patient access.

### HAART Has Saved Tens of Thousands of Lives

More than  
**860,000**  
premature deaths  
avoided



discrimination complaint filed in 2014 with the Office for Civil Rights by two advocacy groups, the AIDS Institute and the National Health Law Program, against four Florida insurers that were selling marketplace plans. That complaint, against some of the same insurers highlighted by the Harvard center, charged that the insurers placed all the HIV drugs in the highest cost-sharing tier.”

“The new complaints may put more pressure on the Office for Civil Rights to address this issue, said Katie Keith, a steering committee member for Out2Enroll, a health insurance advocacy group for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.”

Read More: <http://khn.org/NjY3NTg2>

*Protect Access & Innovation is an initiative to bring attention to the value that medical innovation brings to patients, our healthcare system and the overall economy, while exposing policies and proposals that threaten patient access to care.*  
*#ProtectAccessAndInnovation*

California Life Sciences Association (CLSA) advances California’s world-leading life sciences innovation ecosystem by advocating for effective national, state and local public policies and supporting entrepreneurs and life sciences businesses.



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