

## **NASW-TX LGBTQ+ Committee Statement on on PrEP Ruling**

In the NASW Code of Ethics, the value of social justice within the profession is defined in part as: "Social workers strive to ensure access to needed information, services, and resources; equality of opportunity; and meaningful participation in decision making for all people." The Code also partly defines the principle focused on dignity and worth of a person as: "Social workers treat each person in a caring and respectful fashion, mindful of individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity." As these two ethical principles state, social workers are consistently obligated to advocate "with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed individuals and groups of people." With these ethical principles and social work values in mind, it is imperative for NASW TX to speak out against the harsh ruling that would prevent people, especially LGBTQ+ individuals, from accessing PrEP (Truvada) as part of a preventive care plan covered by most health insurance policies. If the mandate - which requires most health insurance companies to cover medicine that prevents HIV infection - is overturned, millions of Americans may lose access to preventive care opportunities and face major obstacles obtaining necessary information, services and resources vital to their well-being. Not only does this ruling deny many individuals access to, and agency over their own health care, it hinders the ability of social workers to properly care for and respect all people across the country, regardless of identity.