



Public Health
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RUSSELL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Testimony of the Russell County Health Department to the
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Proponent for HB2750
February 12, 2024

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written proponent testimony on this bill.

This bill would define “Expedited Partner Therapy” (EPT) in Kansas and provide an additional tool to clinicians in the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. According to data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), once this bill is passed, Kansas would join the 46 other States in which EPT is a permissible practice. EPT is the clinical practice of treating the sex partner(s) of patients diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to their partner without the health care provider first examining the partner. As sexually transmitted disease rates have increased over the past decade, it is time to add this clinical option to the toolbox of our healthcare providers.

There have been issues with reinfections due to partner(s) not being treated in a timely manner. By supporting this bill, partner(s) could be treated in a timely manner, preventing a majority of reinfections. As the Russell County Health Department will be able to conduct their own tests for some sexually transmitted infections in the future, prompt treatment will be possible. With prompt treatment for the client, partner(s) would also receive treatment quickly with the passage of EPT.

I ask the Committee to support this bill.

Respectfully,

Paula J. Bitter, DNP, APRN-C
Administrator/Health Officer
Russell County Health Department