



Testimony in Support of SB404

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

February 8th, 2024

Chairwoman Gossage and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anthony Jeter and I am a pharmacist practicing in Wichita. I am writing to advocate in favor of SB404 and Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) for the treatment of certain sexually transmitted illnesses.

I believe that EPT would increase access to care for patients in need of treatment by reducing time and cost burdens of making individual appointments to get tested and receive antibiotic prescriptions, allowing cheaper, more timely access to these medications and thus reducing spread of these infections in the population. I am originally from Nebraska where EPT has been codified (Nebraska Revised Statute 71-503.02) since 2013. In my experience with it in the retail pharmacy setting, it has been smoothly incorporated into existing procedures and been accepted by pharmacists and providers alike.

As a pharmacist, I can attest to the overall safety of the medications used to treat these infections. It is my opinion that they are safe enough to not require each individual to be evaluated separately, as there are very few contraindications, side effects, or other concerns with these medications that would disqualify someone from using them. Any safety concerns are well detailed in the written education materials which this bill requires. These would be things like making sure that all individuals that will be taking the medications are not allergic to the medication prescribed, communicating specific administration instructions, and confirming that any patient who can become pregnant is not currently pregnant before using doxycycline. Medication guides and would also be provided as required by the FDA, which contain this information as well, ensuring that detailed information is always given to the patient that they can reference at will.

Procedurally, EPT prescriptions would be handled identically to any other prescription for antibiotics we receive at the pharmacy. We already check allergies on every patient, explain how to administer medications, and counsel on potential pregnancy concerns, so the allowance of EPT would not necessitate changes to how pharmacists currently scrutinize and dispense these prescriptions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of SB404.

-Anthony Jeter, Pharm.D.