



February 5, 2024

The Honorable Beverly Gossage
300 SW 10th St. Room: 445-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: Senate Bill No. 404

Dear Senator Gossage,

The Kansas Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives is writing to communicate our support of the proposed Senate Bill No. 404, permitting the use of expedited partner therapy for the treatment of sexually transmitted disease.

According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are on the rise in the State of Kansas, doubling from 2002 to 2022. Expedited partner therapy (EPT) is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent further spread of infection and Kansas is one of only four states in the U.S. that does not legally allow EPT. Expedited partner therapy is not currently addressed in statute, leaving providers in limbo about whether to prescribe for partners or risk their patient returning with a reinfection. Passing this bill will give providers the clarity and confidence to prescribe to partners and will help stop the spread of STIs in Kansas.

Recently, a Certified Nurse-Midwife in a rural clinic setting encountered a pregnant person infected with chlamydia. The provider ordered treatment for the pregnant person and the partner asked for a prescription as well. The partner was advised to schedule a visit with urgent care or a primary care provider for treatment. The pregnant person completed treatment, but the partner did not, and the pregnant person returned a few weeks later with a reinfection. This placed the pregnant person at risk for pelvic inflammatory disease and preterm labor and placed her baby at risk for early birth and infection. Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon occurrence. Passing SB 404 would reduce the amount of time a partner goes untreated, could specifically reduce risks for complications in pregnancy from untreated STIs, and prevent further spread of infections.

We strongly urge you and your colleagues to formally allow providers to follow the CDC's recommendation and we encourage you to support expedited access to care and prevent unnecessary spread of STIs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christy Evers, DNP, APRN-NM, CNM
President
Kansas Affiliate, American College of Nurse-Midwives