



**Written Proponent Testimony on SB 404**  
**Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare**  
**February 8, 2024**

Madam Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 404, which would permit the use of expedited partner therapy to treat a sexually transmitted disease.

Increasing rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are a substantial public health concern for Kansans. In 2020, 14,720 cases of chlamydia and 5,620 cases of gonorrhea were diagnosed in Kansas, marking a 54 percent increase in chlamydia cases and a 172 percent increase in gonorrhea cases since 2010.<sup>1</sup> Left untreated, both STIs can have long-term complications like infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pelvic pain. One of the most prevalent risk factors for these complications is repeat infection, which most commonly occurs when an individual's partner does not receive treatment.

The goal of expedited partner therapy (EPT) is to prevent reinfection by treating a partner who is unable or unwilling to seek medical care. Reducing stigma and barriers to access increases the likelihood of receiving the necessary care, ensuring timely treatment and preventing reinfection. When compared with standard partner notification and referrals, studies show that EPT can reduce the prevalence of chlamydia reinfection by 20 percent and gonorrhea reinfection by 50 percent.<sup>2</sup>

EPT is an evidence-based, common sense public health strategy and Kansas is one of only four states that does not expressly permit this practice. Given the dramatic increase in STIs over the last decade, it is essential for healthcare providers to utilize the most effective method to treat the greatest number of Kansans. EPT provides this opportunity and creates a clear path to reduce the spread of STIs and mitigate the long-term consequences of infection.

We appreciate your consideration of Senate Bill 404 and strongly urge you to support its passage.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup>Kansas Department of Health and Environment. (2022). *Kansas STI Case Rate Report Calendar Year 2010 to 2020*. <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/2232>

<sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). *Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)*. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/clinical-EPT.htm>