

Kansas Senate Committee on Public Health & Welfare
Thursday, February 6, 2024
Re: Senate Bill 404

Good morning, Chairwoman Gossage, Vice-Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee. My name is Kimberly Kern and I am a pharmacist with Walgreens specialty pharmacy in Kansas City, and I also serve as the Pharmacist in Charge for the Wyandotte County Health Department. I maintain credentials with the American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIV) as well. I am here today to convey my support as a proponent of Senate Bill 404 (SB 404).

I believe SB 404 will serve the population of Kansas in a variety of ways. It will decrease the incidence of transmissible sexually transmitted diseases by treating affected patients and their partners while making care more accessible. Accessibility can look like access to appointments, missed work days, and health literacy. By providing Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) to partners without a physical exam, we are able to bridge the gap and hopefully reduce stigma surrounding STIs in addition to reducing healthcare costs.

Pharmacists have ample training and the ability to handle the counseling required when filling prescriptions for EPT. In my personal experience, I have had to request patient specific prescriptions for EPT even when I knew that was the intention for a prescription—something this bill will allow for—expedited care. Pharmacists are medication experts and are able to provide education as well as a non-biased interaction for patients. Pending no known drug allergies, EPT is safe and effective. The more patients that can receive treatment, the greater the overall benefit will be for the community as a whole.

Thank you for your time and I hope for your support of SB 404. I am happy to entertain any questions or concerns that you may have.

Kimberly Kern PharmD AAHIVP
Walgreens