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Testimony of Pottawatomie County Health Department to the
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Proponent for SB 404
February 8, 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 partners 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.

Syphilis a thing of the past, is rearing its evil head. In the past years Pottawatomie County would have 0 cases of Syphilis, and in 2023 - 5 cases were identified and 1 congenital Syphilis case. One baby that has sever birth defect and will ultimately die, could have been saved by this bill. Treatment could have been given to the partners to decrease spread of all sexually transmitted diseases. Majority of other states do this without any issues, let us not be last again in providing much needed services to Kansans.

I ask the Committee to support this bill.

Respectfully,

Leslie Campbell

Leslie Campbell, RN Director and Health Officer