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Healthy People Build Strong Communities

Written Only Testimony on Sente Bill 404

Submitted To

The Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

By

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Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD)

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On behalf of the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) and our 100 member Health Departments serving all 105 Kansas Counties, I appreciate the opportunity to provide this written testimony on Senate Bill 404. We are a proponent for 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 practiceⁱ. 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.

This policy topic was heard in this committee as SB144ⁱⁱ in February of 2019, a bill which died in Committee. Then, HB2259ⁱⁱⁱ advanced from the House on March 2, 2021, only to die in Committee in May of 2022. In each instance, there were no opponents to the bill. This year it is time to get this policy enacted by passing SB404.

We ask you to support this bill by voting it favorably from this Committee, and recommending it be passed by the Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this discussion.

ⁱ [Legal Status of Expedited Partner Therapy \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/press-releases/r161119a.htm)

ⁱⁱ [SB 144 | Bills and Resolutions | Kansas State Legislature \(kslegislature.org\)](https://kslegislature.org/legislation/bills-resolutions/2019/sb144/)

ⁱⁱⁱ [HB 2259 | Bills and Resolutions | Kansas State Legislature \(kslegislature.org\)](https://kslegislature.org/legislation/bills-resolutions/2021/hb2259/)