

Testimony in Support of SB448
Senate Committee on Public Health & Welfare
February 10, 2026

Senator Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for holding this important hearing. I am a family medicine physician in Wichita and have practiced in Kansas since 2011. I provide care from conception to the end of life, and I have the privilege of training 54 physicians towards their board certification in family medicine through KU and Ascension Via Christi Hospitals in Wichita. These physicians go on to provide “womb-to-tomb” care to your constituents and beyond our state. Providing - and training others to provide - excellent, comprehensive care is a passion and a ministry for me.

Unfortunately, sexually transmitted infections are a common part of every primary care physician’s practice. I have seen these infections result in hospitalizations, surgeries, chronic pain, infertility, and other serious, unnecessary, and costly complications. In pregnancy, **these infections can also cause premature delivery, low birth weight newborns, and infections in the newborn** - outcomes which can have lifelong negative health implications for children who cannot advocate for themselves.

When we diagnose these infections, every effort is made to treat not just the patient, but also their recent sexual partners. Ideally, both partners make appointments and receive care on the same day. But in practice, the partner is usually not my patient, may not have a physician, or may not have insurance. For various reasons, same-day appointments often do not happen, partners often do not receive prompt treatment, and our patients are subsequently reinfected at rates as high as 30%. This puts them, and their unborn children, at *substantial* risk. In these situations, we can and should offer Expedited Partner Therapy in order to protect the women we see, the men who we do not, and - if pregnant - their potentially affected children.

EPT works, and it is safe. We have 48 states with EPT-protection laws in place to alleviate any concerns about unintended consequences. Without this law, Kansas and South Dakota physicians may not offer EPT out of fear of liability or discipline from the board. I believe this explains why these two states continue to have higher chlamydia rates than expected.

As a pro-life physician, please hear me: SB 488 is a pro-life bill.

Please pass SB448. Every physician I know would thank you. We need this tool to treat and protect our patients - including the unborn. Thank you for your consideration.

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