



Shawnee County Health Department

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Testimony of Shawnee County Health Department to the
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Proponent for SB448
February 10, 2026

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 48 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, it is time to add this clinical option to the toolbox of our healthcare providers.

STI rates in Kansas have increased over the past decade. The rate in Shawnee County far exceeds the state rate and has more than doubled from 2003 to 2023 (5.0 per 1000 to 10.4 per 1000).

I ask the Committee to support this bill.

Respectfully,

Teresa Fisher
Director
Shawnee County Health Department