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Testimony on SB448

Submitted To

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

by

Terrie Garrison, Interim Director

Dr. Allen Greiner, Health Officer

Wyandotte County Public Health Department

February 10, 2026

As the longtime family physician health officer at the Wyandotte County Health Department (Dr. Greiner) and longtime clinical manager and now Interim Director (Terrie Garrison) we have seen hundreds of cases over the years where expedited partner therapy could have successfully treated infections that went on to be untreated and led to broader community spread.

We've seen cases at local high school clinics where we successfully treated young adults over age 18 after seeing and testing them but we were unable to get their partners in for testing and treatment. These students don't have transportation, and they don't want to tell their parents they may have an infection. They won't come to the clinic in the school because they're embarrassed. We know they could've been



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treated through expedited partner therapy, but we don't have the authorization to do that.

There's no doubt that our inability to treat partners is part of the reason our county has long been a high-rate county for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia. We aren't helping this population group in a safe and effective way. We could reduce down-the-road costs and prevent complications like infertility that can affect the young women who may unknowingly become infected and not be able to easily access treatment.

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 published](#) by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Kansas remains one of two states without clear statutory authority, leaving clinicians uncertain and limiting our ability to respond effectively.

SB 448 does not mandate EPT; it simply gives providers the legal clarity to use a proven public health intervention when appropriate. The bill includes safeguards for documentation, counseling, and partner education, elements that align with best practices and support responsible implementation.

From a local health department perspective, EPT would immediately strengthen our STI prevention efforts, reduce reinfections, and allow us to use limited resources more efficiently. Passing SB 448 would bring Kansas in line with national standards and provide a meaningful, cost-effective tool to protect community health.

We respectfully urge the committee to advance SB 448.

Thank you for your consideration.

Terrie Garrison
Interim Director

Dr. Allen Greiner
Health Officer