

Barber County Community Health Department
211 E. KANSAS, MEDICINE LODGE, KS 67104



Testimony on SB448

Submitted To

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

By

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On behalf of the Barber County Health Department and the citizens of our county, I appreciate the opportunity to provide this proponent testimony for SB 448.

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.

Our department sees firsthand the effects when a patient is treated but their partner is not, reinfection is common. This cycle drives up case counts, increases complications, and strains already limited public health resources. The CDC recommends EPT as a safe and effective strategy to reduce reinfection and prevent further spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). Most states have already adopted EPT because it improves outcomes, reduces costs, and expands access for individuals facing barriers such as transportation, clinic availability, or stigma.

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.

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