



KANSAS ACADEMY of FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Testimony: SB 448
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
February 6, 2024
Written Only

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 448. The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) represents nearly 2,000 family physicians, resident physicians and medical students across our state. Providing quality health care and good health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work.

Expedited partner therapy is effective in reducing STI reinfection rates by 20%–29% and increasing treatment access for partners, especially when compared to traditional, less effective referral methods. It is considered a crucial public health tool endorsed by the CDC and other medical organizations. Further EPT can:

- **Reduced Reinfection:** Many evidence-based [studies](#) show that EPT significantly lowers the risk of patients being reinfected by untreated partners.
- **Increased Treatment Access:** EPT removes barriers to care, such as lack of insurance or time, particularly for male partners who are less likely to seek routine care.
- **Public Health Impact:** By treating partners without requiring a prior office visit, EPT lowers overall healthcare costs and reduces the spread of STIs like chlamydia and gonorrhea.
- **Safety Record:** EPT has been used safely for over a decade in many states with few adverse events. Kansas would be the 49th state to enact EPT as a standard of care if this legislation passes.

Barriers to Routine Use of Expedited Partner Therapy

Evidence suggests that the benefits of expedited partner therapy in preventing gonorrhea and chlamydial reinfection outweigh the risks of possible adverse effects of antibiotics, development of antibiotic resistance related to poor treatment adherence, or missed care opportunities. Despite the effectiveness of expedited partner therapy, numerous legal, medical, practical, and administrative barriers hinder its routine use by family physicians. Kansas is one of only four states without statute supporting expedited partner therapy.

KAFP recommends expedited partner therapy is recommended only after the family physician or other healthcare provider has assessed the risk of intimate partner violence associated with partner notification. It should not be intended for use in cases of suspected child abuse, sexual assault, or any other situation in which the patient's safety from their abuser may be compromised.

About Kansas Academy of Family Physicians

KAFP represents nearly 2,000 active, resident, student and life members across the state. Our member physicians are vibrant and trusted members of their communities and are dedicated to creating a healthier Kansas. Quality health care and health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work. As family physicians, we see people of all ages, both men and women, and we work with almost every type of ailment and illness that afflict our patients.

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