

Testimony of Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health  
To Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
Written Proponent Testimony for SB 448 | February 10, 2026

Chairwoman Gossage, Vice Chairman Clifford, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony for SB 448, which would permit the use of expedited partner therapy (EPT) to treat sexually transmitted infections. Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health (LDCPH) serves Lawrence and Douglas County residents and works to create abundant opportunities for good health.

Expedited partner therapy is the clinical practice of treating partners of patients diagnosed with sexual transmitted infections (STIs) by providing prescriptions for medication and treatment to the patient to take to their partner without the partner having to see the physician. This is a promising tool to prevent the spread of STIs, and Kansas is only one of two states that has not implemented EPT as of June 2025.

Rates of STIs like chlamydia and gonorrhea continue to increase in Kansas and in Douglas County. Practitioners at LDCPH treated over 253 patients for STIs in 2025. Because of current state law, these cases must be treated individually through private appointments, significantly increasing the time spent on treating STIs that could have been spent elsewhere in the community.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) note that the prevention of STIs remains a top public health priority as several STI cases continue to remain undiagnosed and untreated. The permitted use of expedited partner therapy would allow providers in Douglas County and Kansas to adequately treat STIs in the communities we serve.

Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health encourages the committee to consider the positive benefits for Kansans in this bill.

Sincerely,



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