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Healthy People Build Strong Communities

Testimony of the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) to the
House Committee on Health and Human Services

Proponent for HB 2259 • February 22, 2021

Chairwoman Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of House Bill 2259 regarding permitting the use of expedited partner therapy for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. KALHD is a nonprofit association dedicated to strengthening local health departments for the purpose of improving and protecting the health of all Kansans.

HB 2259 will go a long way to addressing this risk and aid in local efforts to control the spread of disease. Healthcare providers will be able provide prescription treatment drugs and relevant counseling materials to the patient to take to their sexual partners. While there is a risk with any drug, most of these treatments are antibiotic in nature and are designed for self-administration.

It is always best for a patient receiving treatment to be seen by a healthcare provider. That said, treatment is the priority, especially in diseases that can be spread, as a failure to treat presents a public health risk. That is why we ask that the Committee report HB 2259 favorably for passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Dennis Kriesel

Executive Director, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments