



Written Testimony for House Bill 2259

Permitting the Use of Expedited Partner Therapy to Treat a Sexually Transmitted Disease

House Committee on Health and Human Services

By Aaron Dunkel, Executive Director

Kansas Pharmacists Association - Topeka, Kansas

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Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am Aaron Dunkel, Executive Director for the Kansas Pharmacists Association (KPhA). The Kansas Pharmacists Association is the statewide professional association that represents Kansas pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and student pharmacists from all practice settings. I am writing this to you today to ask for your support for HB 2259.

HB 2259 would authorize healthcare providers to prescribe drugs to a patient's sexual partner, without examination, if the patient has been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease. The bill would also create a liability waiver for prescribers and pharmacists, so long as prescribing and dispensing is done in good faith and follows state law.

KPhA is in full support of HB 2259. With the incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), such as chlamydia, syphilis, and gonorrhea, in Kansas increasing by over 65% in the last decade, this is a necessary step in protecting Kansans against the further spread of these diseases. KPhA understands the need for the implementation of this process and stands ready to work with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to ensure that the rules and regulations developed to support this process are protective of the public health while also being minimally burdensome on those we are trying to serve.

Our intent would be to guarantee that the process is protective of public health, individual health data, and eliminates the possibility of prescriptions being filled that are not needed or are not safe. Our members are ready to collect all appropriate information regarding the patients that are directed to this program. As part of the process, pharmacies can screen patients to make sure there are no contraindicated medications they are currently taking or anything else in their screening that would indicate possible negative reactions to the prescribed medication.

KPhA is proud to be able to support HB 2259. It allows a process that will have a positive impact on the lives of many Kansans and helps support positive health outcomes by slowing the growth of sexually transmitted infections in the state.

Thank you, Madame Chair and Committee, for your consideration of HB 2259.