



Shawnee County Health Department

**Shawnee County Health Department**  
Teresa Fisher, Director  
2600 SW East Circle Dr., Topeka, KS 66606  
Ph. 785.251.5600 | Fax 785.251.5696  
[www.shawneehealth.org](http://www.shawneehealth.org)

Testimony of Shawnee County Health Department to the  
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare  
Proponent for SB 404  
February 8, 2024

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written proponent testimony on this bill.

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](#) compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), once this bill is passed, Kansas would join the 46 other States in which EPT is a permissible practice. EPT is the clinical practice of treating the sex partners of patients diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to their partner without the health care provider first examining the partner. As sexually transmitted disease rates have increased, it is time to add this clinical option to the toolbox of our healthcare providers.

STI rates in Kansas have increased significantly over the past decade. The rate in Shawnee County far exceeds the state rate and has more than doubled from 2002 to 2022 (5.5 per 1000 to 12.3 per 1000).

The Shawnee County Health Department surveyed local medical providers and found that all respondents agreed or strongly agreed that EPT is a safe and useful way to more effectively treat STIs and legislation that explicitly allows EPT would help reduce STIs in their community.

I ask the Committee to support this bill.

Respectfully,

Teresa Fisher  
Director  
Shawnee County Health Department