



Testimony of the **Kansas Public Health Association** to the
Kansas 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 provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2259 which permits the use of expedited partner therapy to treat sexually transmitted diseases. We appreciate that this same concept was heard by this committee in 2019, passed and was supported by the Committee of the Whole, but did not pass through the Senate.

Kansas is one of only five states that does not expressly permit Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) explains that “EPT is the clinical practice of treating the sex partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to his/her partner without the health care provider first examining the partner.”ⁱ The CDC recommends that EPT should be available as an option for clinicians to support partner treatment. In fact, the CDC’s Division of STD Prevention reports that “studies have shown that patients whose partners received EPT were 29% less likely to be reinfected than those who simply told their partners to visit the doctor.”ⁱⁱ EPT is proven to be a successful public health intervention.

In addition to the CDC, EPT is supported by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologistsⁱⁱⁱ, Society for Adolescent Medicine (SAM) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)^{iv}, the American Academy of Family Physicians^v, and even the American Bar Association^{vi}.

EPT is common sense public health strategy and holds the promise of reducing both the spread of disease and reducing long-term consequences from STDs. Thank you for hearing this bill and we strongly urge you to support EPTs passage this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Skidmore, President
Kansas Public Health Association

KPHA is a professional association for Kansas public health practitioners, professionals, and advocates. As a voice for public health, KPHA provides a forum for individuals and organizations to work collectively to assure conditions in which Kansans' lives will be healthy. *(This position reflects the collective position of association members through the action of the Board of Directors and may not necessarily reflect the views of each KPHA member’s employer.)*

ⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/std/ept/>

ⁱⁱ Expedited Partner Therapy: Helping to Reduce Sexually Transmitted Infections fact sheet available at <https://www.cdc.gov/std/products/success/ept-success-story-2016.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ ACOG: <https://www.acog.org/-/media/project/acog/acogorg/clinical/files/committee-opinion/articles/2018/06/expedited-partner-therapy.pdf>

^{iv} SAM and AAP: [https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(09\)00205-5/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(09)00205-5/fulltext)

^v AAFP: <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/expedited-partner-therapy.html>

^{vi} ABA: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/ept/onehundredsixteena.authcheckdam.pdf>