

**Testimony of Dr. Jennifer Schrimsher, MD, MPH on behalf of Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health  
to the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Written Only Proponent for SB 404 (via Webex) | February 8, 2024**

Chairwoman Gossage and members of the committee:

My name is Dr. Jennifer Schrimsher, MD, MPH. Thank you for allowing me to provide verbal proponent testimony in support of SB 404, which would permit the use of expedited partner therapy to treat STIs. I am testifying today on behalf of Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health (LDCPH), where I serve as the health officer. I am also an Infectious Diseases physician with over 13 years of experience in medicine and public health. I am also a Kansas trained physician and public health practitioner, receiving my education at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

As many have shared today, expedited partner therapy is the clinical practice of treating partners of patients diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) by providing prescriptions for medication and treatment to the patient to take to their partner without the partner having to see a physician. It is important to note that EPT still requires a prescription from a physician. However, this practice is a promising tool to prevent the spread of STIs, and 46 other states have already implemented this practice to good results.

Cases of both chlamydia and gonorrhea have increased exponentially in Kansas and in Douglas County. In 2022, Douglas County reported over 637.6 confirmed cases per 100,000 population of chlamydia and 229.6 confirmed cases per 100,000 population of gonorrhea during the same period. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that prevention of STIs remains a top public health priority as STI cases went underreported during the COVID-19 pandemic. The permitted use of expedited partner therapy would allow Douglas County and other providers to adequately treat STIs in our community.

As a physician, I believe strongly that this bill has positive benefits for Kansans and would help health care and public health more effectively address this issue.

Thank you,



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