

House of Representatives Health and Human Services Committee

HB 2198 -Proponent

February 14, 2019

Committee Members,

I am providing this written testimony on behalf of House Bill 2198 which allows for the use of Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) to treat sexual transmitted infections. EPT provides guidance to physicians about treating the exposed sexual partners of patients diagnosed with a sexual transmitted infection. Sexual transmitted infections affect women to a greater extent and are a preventable threat to a women's fertility. The goal of EPT is to prevent reinfection (specifically with gonorrhea or chlamydia) by treating a partner that is unwilling or unable to seek medical care.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has concluded that EPT is a useful tool for partner treatment and has recommended this practice since 2006. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist (ACOG) also supports EPT in jurisdictions where it is legally permitted. The organization has gone on to provide guidance in principles for practice which have been included in this bill. Some of the guidance includes which partners should be treated, advice on patient counseling and written instructions for partners with encouragement for partners to seek medical treatment for further evaluation.

I have been a practicing physician for over 13 years and have practiced in Kansas for greater than 7 years. I will frequently have to retest and occasionally retreat my patients due to reinfection from a partner that has not sought medical care. If this legislation is adopted, Kansas will be the 44th state to allow for EPT. The passage of this bill will align medical treatment with nationally recognized standards and provide the best medical care possible for all Kansans.

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